

# THE TIMES

Mr Nixon talks on the mood of America, page 15

## General Franco appeals on deathbed for his enemies to forgive him

an 30 days of mourning yesterday after the death of General Franco. In a deathbed appeal, the General, who was 82, said he forgave his

enemies, "even though I did not consider them as such" and asked them to forgive him. Lord Shepherd, Lord Privy Seal, will represent Britain at the funeral on Sunday.

## See-man council to rule until King born in tomorrow

Belobos  
The Council of Regency, which will rule until the birth of the young Prince Juan Carlos, announced yesterday that it had decided to observe 30 days of mourning for the late General Franco.

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General Franco's widow and daughter passing the coffin lying in the chapel of El Pardo

## British attendance angers Labour

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent  
Lord Shepherd, the Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House of Lords, will represent the British Government at General Franco's funeral.

Labour backbenchers have launched a series of angry protests against the decision to send Lord Shepherd to attend the funeral. They argue that the British Government is showing respect for a man who was responsible for the deaths of many British citizens.

The Government's decision to send Lord Shepherd to attend the funeral has been widely criticized. Some people believe that the British Government should not show respect for a man who was responsible for the deaths of many British citizens.

## Amendments will put Scottish devolution threat to test

The Liberal amendment notes the "inclusion of yet more disruptive changes in Britain's economic and industrial policies" and "regrets the absence of fundamental policies and constitutional reforms to provide that continuity of economic and industrial policy without which the British economy must continue its long-term decline."

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## Toy gun threat to Mr Reagan

From Fred Emery  
Washington, Nov 20  
Mr Ronald Reagan today barely got started on his campaign to beat Mr Ford for the Republican presidential nomination when a man tried to frighten him with an apparent assassination attempt.

The assassination attempt occurred as Mr Reagan was walking through a crowd of supporters. A man threw a toy gun at him, but it did not hit him.

## Portuguese Cabinet goes on strike

From Michael Kolpe  
Lisbon, Nov 20  
The extraordinary action of Portugal's sixth provisional Government in declaring itself to be on strike provoked a massive demonstration by its opponents outside the presidential palace today.

The demonstration was organized by the Communist Party and other opposition groups. They argued that the Government was not representing the interests of the Portuguese people.

The Government's decision to go on strike has been widely criticized. Some people believe that the Government should not show respect for a man who was responsible for the deaths of many British citizens.

## Five schoolgirls die as jet crushes car on main road

By Craig Seron  
Five girls and a woman driving home from school were killed yesterday when their car was struck by a jet aircraft on a main road. The jet was on a low-level flight and crashed into the car.

The accident occurred on a busy main road. The jet was on a low-level flight and crashed into the car. The girls and the woman were killed, and the car was crushed.

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## Import may be led

The Government has announced that it will lead the way in the development of a new airport. The airport will be built on a site near the city and will be used for both commercial and military purposes.

## Britain will send in Navy if needed

Mr Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said yesterday that the Government had no desire to widen the rift with Iceland in the fisheries dispute, but would not hesitate to send the Navy if the situation demanded it.

## CIA murder plots

A United States Senate committee report says that the Central Intelligence Agency actively plotted to have Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Premier, and Mr Patrice Lumumba, first Prime Minister of the Congo (Zaire) murdered.

## Novelist rejects Prix Goncourt

Paris, Nov 20.—Emile Ajar, the novelist, announced today that he was rejecting the Prix Goncourt, the coveted French literary prize. No explanation was given. The prize was awarded under police protection on Monday after allegations that the judges were corrupt.

## Polls differ over party leads

An Opinion Research Centre poll carried out for the London Evening Standard gives the Conservatives an 11 per cent lead over Labour. But the latest Gallup Poll conducted for The Daily Telegraph gives Labour the lead by 5.5 per cent.

## Now the World Cup

Don Revie, England's manager, faced strong criticism from Alan Hansen, the secretary of the Football League, when he returned from Portugal yesterday. In the World Cup in 1978, England have been drawn in the same group as Finland, Italy and Luxembourg.

## ib strategy

Attacks in wealthy areas in Belfast as significant by the IRA. A strategy has been taken to concentrate on the 'classes'.

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## Financial Editor

Financial Editor: Land Securities plunges in own sorrow; Becham as the patents expire; Business features; Maurice Corina on the problems Japan's car makers have created

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HOME NEWS

# Senior ministers want to use enabling Bills for easier government

By Michael Hatfield

Political Staff  
Senior ministers strongly believe that the forthcoming review of parliamentary procedure will have to include a detailed examination of the possibility of allowing governments to bring in general enabling Bills.

Although the proposal will be fiercely resisted in some quarters on the ground that such Bills might lead to government by order, ministers believe that Parliament will have to face the fact that the pressures of an increasingly complicated society are placing corresponding strains upon government.

Enabling Bills invest executive powers in ministers who can bring forward at need statutory instruments or orders to carry out a particular policy, some orders have to be affirmatively passed; others are subject to negative procedure, with a limited number of days in which alert MPs can take action against any proposal.

Ministers emphasize that any proposals on enabling Bills would have to have built-in safeguards, but Parliament already has before it each

session more than two thousand statutory instruments of varying importance, apart from the orders flowing from Britain's membership of the European Economic Community.

All orders go before a Commons statutory instruments committee for examination, but many politicians believe that because of the enormous number of such instruments government by order is not much better than arbitrary administration.

Supporters of enabling Bills believe that they might be used in the complex fields of industry, science, and technology, but they recognize that the procedure would be unacceptable unless proper safeguards can be found.

Mr Short, Leader of the House, has arranged for a debate on the matter in the Commons before the Christmas recess. The Government's intention is to set up an inquiry into Commons procedures. Membership of the inquiry will not necessarily be limited to MPs because it is generally felt that it would be more valuable if outsiders assisted it. It is likely, therefore, that it will include businessmen and trade unionists.



Giant card: Miss Miriam Karlin, the actress, with Mr Gordon Jackson (centre) and Mr Frank Thornton, the actors, painting an 8ft Christmas card yesterday at the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Christmas fair at Carlton Hall, Westminster.

## Consumers urge new farm price strategy

By Hugh Clayton

Consumer groups called on the Government yesterday to safeguard the interests of shoppers when it negotiated farm price increases for next year with the rest of the EEC. It was the first time consumer groups had been invited to take part in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, about a farm price review.

A representative of the Consumers' Association said: "For too long the ministry has been almost entirely for producers and not for consumers."

The National Consumer Council, whose members are appointed by the Secretary for Prices and Consumer Protection, was represented at yesterday's meeting with ministry officials by Mrs Evelyn Smith. She said afterwards: "I think that over the next few years you will find that consumers will get together and evolve a policy about what they are prepared to pay." She wanted the Government to consider expressing farm price increases in pence a pound instead of units of account, a kilogram.

One of the representatives of the Consumers' Association at the meeting was Dr William Roberts, head of its European unit. He said after the meeting that it was important for prices to be based on the needs of modern farms. Struggling or inefficient farms should receive direct subsidies.

Fixing farm prices at levels needed to preserve the least efficient was like giving medicine to a large group of people when only a few were ill: most of the medicine was wasted. "We are interested in farm productivity rather than farm incomes," Dr Roberts said.

He added that Consumers' Association opposed "open-ended intervention" in which surpluses were bought by State agencies while prices were below a fixed price. That imposed the penalty for surpluses entirely on consumers when it should be shared between them and producers.

He thought consumers should be represented at all meetings with ministers about farm price reviews.

Yesterday's meeting coincided with publication of the latest food price index prepared for The Grocer. It showed that despite cuts on fats and flour prices were 20p in the pound higher than a year ago. Fresh vegetables cost almost half as much again as a year ago, milk had risen by more than three quarters.

Food prices, page 6

## Child-death report criticizes welfare staff

By Diana Geddes

The recommendations of the committee of inquiry into the case of Mr John Auckland, who was convicted of the manslaughter of one of his baby daughters after serving a prison sentence for killing another, were being looked at urgently.

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, told the Commons yesterday.

She said she intended to prepare guidance on the matters covered in the committee of inquiry's report, which was published yesterday. It would include the interpretation of the section of the Children's and Young Persons Act, 1969, relating to care proceedings; the importance of keeping records; the exchange of information between agencies; and the need for specialist knowledge among members of the professions dealing with children at risk and adequate arrangements for supervision by senior staff.

In its report the committee of inquiry found that for most of the time the various people and agencies who helped the Auckland family "did all that could be expected of them", but that there were occasions when "the service given to the family faltered".

Mrs Castle said in a written reply to Mrs Ann Taylor, Labour MP for Bolton, west, that she would be asking the authorities concerned to consider what steps should be taken to remedy the shortcomings that had become apparent and to inform her of the action they decided on.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, was considering how existing arrangements could be extended so that information could be passed to social service departments on the release of all prisoners with convictions for child abuse.

Mrs Castle pointed out that a new section had been added to the Children Act, 1975, to make it possible to take care proceedings on the ground that anyone convicted of an offence against a child is, or may become, a member of the same household as a child. That fulfilled one of the recommendations of the report of the committee of inquiry.

Mr Auckland, of Shalton, Barnsley, was jailed for 18 months in 1968 for the manslaughter, while suffering from diminished responsibility, of his daughter, Marianne, aged nine weeks. He was released in July, 1969, and allowed to take care of his three children. In November, 1974, he was jailed for five years for manslaughter

after battering to death another daughter, Susan, aged 15. In its report on the events surrounding the case, a committee of inquiry headed by Mr Paul Kennedy, QC, is strongly critical of social workers, doctors and health visitors. It speaks of a lack of liaison between the various welfare services.

"It may be that if there had been fewer faults the life of one child could have been saved", the report says. "But no one fault or combination of faults can be said to have been of paramount importance, and many of the faults were peculiar to one individual or one set of circumstances."

Although the welfare services "did less than they might have done", however, it was the parental services that failed to the greatest extent. Mr Auckland, who was work-shy and inclined to be violent, especially after drink, obviously had to take most blame, but his wife had her shortcomings as a wife and a mother.

The committee accepted that on various occasions she was beaten and intimidated by her husband, but she never asked for help and left three young children in the care of her husband, although she knew his failings.

The report is particularly critical of the social services after the reorganization of the National Health Service on April 1, 1974, and leading up to Susan Auckland's death in June that year. The reorganization had a drastic effect on the management of the Auckland family, which was difficult to excuse, the report says.

Social service and health visiting staff were moved in large numbers so that continuity was broken, except at field level, and staff shortages were created.

Some staff "had to carry excessive case-loads but a more serious problem was that some staff were required to undertake work beyond their competence".

The report criticizes Dr Ajmal Khan, who, it says, ignored a reminder from the regional medical service about the possibility of approaching a psychiatrist who examined Auckland shortly before daughter's death in 1968.

It found Dr Khan's conduct to be not what we would expect from a member of his profession, the report says. Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Provision and Coordination of services to the family of John George Auckland. Department of Health and Social Security (Stationery Office, £1.35).

Two other men have already been cleared.

The remaining defendants are Ronald Dillidge, aged 49, of Graspin Lane, Northampton, a former leader of Northampton Borough Council; Miss Caroline Trusler, aged 55, of Kingsley Road, Northampton, a member of Northamptonshire County Council; and Thomas Ellison, aged 48, of Longdon Street, Warrington, Cheshire.

The prosecution has alleged that the company was run in an irregular fashion and that its funds were "milked" to pay off debts of a London public relations firm, Vandeigh.

In its first judgment under its new constitution the Plant Varieties and Seeds Tribunal has rejected an appeal by a Danish plant breeder to introduce the Italian ryegrass Prego in the United Kingdom.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had refused to add Prego to the United Kingdom list of grass varieties. The Controller of Plant Variety Rights had also refused to grant breeders' rights in respect of Prego.

The Danish seed firm of L. Daehfeldt, of Odense, appealed against the refusal in the first case heard by the tribunal since it was reconstituted under the European Communities Act of 1972.

In its judgment the tribunal stated: "Having carefully considered all the submissions and documents put forward by Mr H. Karlson (assistant director of Daehfeldt), and having given him all available latitude in view of the fact that he himself is not a breeder and was on his own presenting a case in what is to him an unfamiliar language, we are nevertheless clear and unanimous opinion that the appellants have failed to establish that Prego is clearly distinguishable from either of the Italian ryegrass varieties Tura or Vejrup MB.

## Overseas doctors to get details of tests they fail

By Neville Hodgkinson

The General Medical Council has decided that doctors with overseas qualifications seeking to work in Britain who fail the language and medical competence test should henceforth be told in which section they were deficient and how badly they failed.

The change overcomes one of the biggest sources of complaint from the doctors, who until now have not known whether it was their professional knowledge or their English that needed improving.

The Temporary Registration Assessment Board, which runs the tests on behalf of the GMC, may also authorize publication next year of sample papers, to give candidates a clearer idea of what they will face.

The test, introduced last June, examines ability to apply medical knowledge in an English context, including spoken English.

The failure rate was 60 per cent in the first four sittings, then rose to 71.3 per cent in the fifth, earlier this month. The GMC does not intend to lower the standard of the examination.

## Labour MPs 'regret' campaign by police

By Marcel Berhins

Legal Correspondent

An early-day motion regretting the Police Federation's campaign to influence changes in the law has been signed by 25 Labour MPs.

The motion, sponsored by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, reads that this House, "while recognizing the difficult and often dangerous job of the police in combating crime and violence, and giving full support to them in the proper discharge of their duties, regrets the announced intention of the Police Federation to campaign against certain aspects of the law, and believes that the police force should retain and defend its long-established policy of non-interference in politics."

As part of the campaign the federation has planned a further meeting in Manchester and is seeking to influence councillors and MPs.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said the campaign "could be the short road to the outrage of a police state".

Mr Joseph Martucci, general secretary of the federation, said of the motion: "The question

of politics does not enter into it. We are concerned with the community and protecting them and, of course, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to do so."

For the first time the federation was speaking up on behalf of its members, who were in the front line when it came to the disregard for law and order. The Government had allowed, for too long, the type of wishy-washy policies that had encouraged people to disregard the law.

They did not wish to influence judges, or anyone else, with regard to the sentences they should be passing. What they wanted them to be aware of was the ever-increasing violence.

It was going to be a long-term campaign and the last thing they wanted was to have a police service that was not acceptable to the vast majority of the public. "The vast majority are, in fact, on our side, and it is on their behalf that we speak", Mr Martucci added.

"We cannot really contend with what is going on any more. There are areas in the country where people cannot walk safely."

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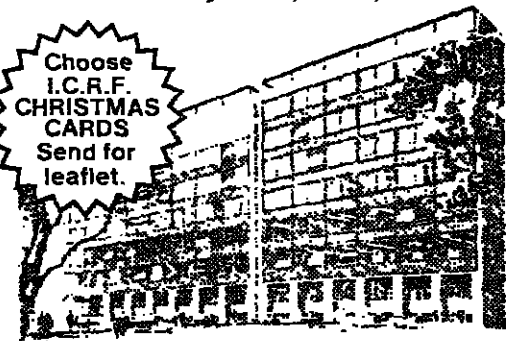


## HOME NEWS

# FIGHT BACK AGAINST CANCER

It is good to remember that most people live their lives untouched by any form of cancer. But as all too many are aware, cancer is something that casts its shadow far beyond those it directly affects. That is why so many people think it right to help the urgent work of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

From our discoveries in the past has come much of today's hope for sufferers. To go forward with our research for future alleviation, we ask your help in the present.



## IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Donations will be most gratefully received by The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 247, Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP.

# A new airport for London area is still possible

By Arthur Reed  
Air Correspondent

Although air traffic forecasts have been greatly reduced because of the impact on air transport of higher fuel prices and economic difficulties, the construction of a new airport for the South-east cannot be excluded in the long term. This is stated in a consultation document on airport policy for the London area, published yesterday.

The Government has been reviewing airport policy since the cancellation in July last year of the project to build a third London airport at Maplin, on the Essex coast.

The document will be sent to local authorities, airport authorities, and consultative committees, amenity organizations and others affected by airport developments to determine their views.

A further document on individual regional airports will be issued early next year, and the Department of Trade promised yesterday that the Government would take into account all the views expressed on both documents before putting proposals for future airport policy to Parliament.

In a document issued yesterday the Department of Trade said that the assumptions underlying the passenger demand forecasts in the Maplin review were reassessed. As a result a downward adjustment was made for the growth of incomes and consumption, a wider range of options was adopted for air

fares, and the assumption that there would be no further increase in real terms in fuel prices beyond 1974 levels retained.

The resulting forecasts of international passenger demand at United Kingdom airports were, "somewhat lower" than in the Maplin review, as the accompanying table shows:

	Maplin review (millions)	Consultation document (millions)
1982	15.2	13.0
1990	18.2	15.7
1992	19.2	16.7
1997	21.2	18.7

The British Airports Authority, the Civil Aviation Authority and British Airways took the view that the out-turn of traffic was likely to be about the middle or the lower half of the range.

Later introduction dates for new aircraft types because of the slower growth of traffic and other factors has led to a reduction in the Maplin review's forecast of 225 passengers an aircraft in 1990 to between 180 and 220.

The document said: "Forecasting so far ahead involves considerable uncertainties and suggests the need for caution in considering projects involving long lead times and high capital investment."

In terms of the existing airports in the London area, it was unlikely that further runways would be required before the 1990s. It was terminal and apron

capacity that were likely to present the primary constraints on traffic growth up to that date.

When improvements already planned and partly under way at Heathrow and Gatwick were completed the terminal capacity of the four London area airports together would be about 50 million passengers a year.

That compared with a passenger throughput at the four airports of 29,400,000 in 1973 and 27,400,000 in 1974.

On the basis of the traffic forecasts that should be adequate until at least the early 1980s. Beyond that, a fourth terminal proposed at Heathrow would bring the terminal capacity of the airport to about 38 million passengers a year. That should provide sufficient capacity for the London airports up to about 1983, even on the high traffic forecast.

Expansion of Stansted to about four million passengers a year and an increase at Luton to five million could provide a total capacity of 63 million. That would meet demand until the mid-1980s, even on the high traffic forecast.

For the longer term, various other developments which were identified in the Maplin review report might be undertaken at existing airports. They were as follows:

1: A fifth terminal on the Perry Oaks sludge disposal site at Heathrow. It would have a lead time of about 12 years, and provide a total airport capacity of about 53,000,000 passengers a year.

2: A second terminal at Gatwick, with a lead time of seven years, giving a total airport capacity of about 55 million a year.

3: A large terminal at Stansted with a lead time of seven years, which, with the maximum development within the airport boundaries, would provide an annual capacity of about 16 million passengers.

4: The further development of Luton up to 10 million passengers, again involving a lead time of about seven years.

In what must be considered a key passage the document talks about longer-term options and new airports.

Apart from options involving the development of the existing London area airports and regional airports, and notwithstanding the Government's decision to abandon the Maplin project, it was likely in the course of consultation that representations would be made about a new airport on an existing airfield, or on a new green-field site.

"Uncertainties about the future growth of traffic and the economic situation are very relevant, but if certain of the developments referred to above were discarded or, contrary to expectations, the out-turn of traffic seemed likely to be near the top of the forecast range, longer-term options other than those based on existing airports and regional diversion would be ruled out."

The Government, the document went on, was anxious to develop a policy to encourage the greater use of regional air-

ports to relieve pressures on the South-east and to assist in the development of regional policies.

A wide range of measures to divert traffic had been examined, including positive measures to encourage the growth of air services at regional airports, and negative measures to restrict the growth of traffic at London area airports.

Four measures were chosen for detailed consideration. They were an airport passenger charge at London airports; launching aid for scheduled air services in the regions; the use of air transport licensing; and passenger limits at London airports.

Restrictive policies at London airports might have a significant effect in terms of increased demand at some regional airports, especially at those on the periphery of the South-east. Such measures might delay the need for expansion in the London area by a year or two, but their scope and intensity would have to be formidable to avoid, at some stage, further expansion at the existing London airports.

With all but the Heathrow expansion at Perry Oaks, the airport developments considered would be on land within the airport boundaries, and minimum site preparation would be needed.

*Airport Strategy for Great Britain. Part 1: The London Area. A Consultation Document. (Stationery Office, £3.50). Leading article, page 17*

# MP's threat worries nationalist officials

From Ronald Faux  
Edinburgh

The Scottish National Party leadership in Scotland is concerned about the outburst from Mr Douglas Henderson, the party's chief whip, suggesting that the party is seeking an opportunity to bring down the Government over the devolution issue.

A division might develop between the MPs and the party organization which believes that the MPs should vote for or against Bills only on whether they are in Scotland's interests.

Mr Henderson's remarks were not well received in Edinburgh yesterday. The party said: "The matter really rests with the Conservative Party and not with us, for it is basically a question of numbers. Is this really a credible proposal? Obviously we would welcome a general election, but perhaps the emotionally charged atmosphere of Parliament under the agreed decision."

Welsh response: People in Wales who favour devolution were disappointed by the Queen's Speech, but feel that it is better to get the devolution plans right rather than hurry them (Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff).

# 'Daily Telegraph' plans staff cut of a third

The management of The Daily Telegraph said yesterday that it wants to cut its staff over a period of almost a third, or more than 650 people. It plans to introduce new production methods. The proposals were outlined to the staff by the managing director, Mr. H. M. Stephen, and the deputy managing director, Mr. J. G. Evans.

It is proposed to start full operation of photocomposition in October, 1977, at a cost of more than £2m.

Under the plan everyone aged over 65 would retire as

soon as possible and from the end of next year there should be automatic retirement at 65. In both cases there would be no unnecessary replacement.

The pension scheme for production staffs would be frozen and replaced by a contributory one with benefits of 1/80th of wages a year of service, subject to discussions with the Department of Employment. Other pension schemes would continue.

Mr Evans said the efficient system for The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph was one entailing computer-operated photocomposition fed

directly by video-display terminals from three sources: composing room, editorial and classified advertising.

The company proposed that for those under 65, severance pay should basically be four weeks a year of service, shaded down for those between 63 and 65, whose retirement was close at hand.

Mr Stephen said there was little sign in their business of the "bottoming out" of the depression that everyone talked about, still less any general indication of economic improvement.

# Wages dispute stops flights from Heathrow

A total of 29 of British Airways European Division's 150 planned flights from Heathrow airport, London, are expected to be cancelled today because of the suspension of maintenance workers over a pay dispute. Affected passengers should be carried by other airlines.

The men are refusing to work on TriStar jets after their demand for extra payment for servicing the aircraft was refused.

The suspensions began when 12 men on the afternoon shift refused to work on the TriStars and were told to go home. A hundred of their workmates walked out in sympathy.

A senior shop steward said: "I can only assume that the airline has prepared 625 letters of suspension." (British Airways employs 625 maintenance men.)

The airline said last night that flights to destinations including Brussels, Orly (Paris), Palma (Majorca), Helsinki, Edinburgh, Belfast, and Dublin would be affected. An official added: "Passengers will be rebooked on other airlines if their flight is affected."

Passengers for all services were asked to check in as normal.

# Children aged 7 'identify with the have-nots'

By Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

A reversal of fortune for young people under the age of 24, which is bound to have wide social effects, was reported to a Royal Society of Health conference yesterday.

In 1961 that group had good job prospects, Mrs P. A. White, deputy principal careers officer of the Inner London Education Authority, said in a paper. Unemployment, relative to the average for all ages, was very low. In the mid-1960s the under-24s fared a little worse than average.

But in 1972 unemployment for the group rose to nearly 60 per cent more than the average for all ages, and the reason was not easily explained.

Mrs White's paper was given to a conference on the needs of immigrant families but she told me afterwards that the implications were much wider. She agreed that the change of fortune for the young had also reduced spending power and undermined the commercially oriented youth culture, with its distinctive fads and fashions, which developed suddenly with the teenage economic boom in the 1960s. The change in fortune was paralleled by an alarming rise in

teenage crime and football hooliganism.

With unemployment spread through families, even children of seven or eight were identifying with the "have-nots" and that was contributing towards a lack of motivation at school.

Mr W. H. Caswell, a London probation officer, told the conference that living standards imposed by slave owners perhaps 300 years ago and continued today were contributing towards frustrations of young black people in Britain.

It became established that if slaves married they had to be sold together and their children had to go with them. That was inconvenient for the slave owners, who prevented any marriages.

The continuation in Britain, with few exceptions, of the West Indian tradition of no marriage until after child-bearing produced great strain, Mr Caswell said. And because many children were brought up by baby-sitters in large groups with very little adult contact or hand they the result was a lack of verbal skill at the age of five is liable to persist through school life with its after effects of educational disadvantage continuing through life.

# Tory leaders accused of decrying social sciences

By David Walker, of  
The Times Higher Education Supplement

Deep antagonism by leading Conservative politicians towards the social sciences is alleged by a former chairman of the Social Science Research Council in an article published today in the council's Newsletter.

Mr Andrew Shonfield, Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, says that in 1970-71 he had to contend with the conviction of Sir Keith Joseph, then Secretary of State for Social Services, that the social sciences were "packed with people committed to the left in British politics".

Mrs Thatcher, then Secretary of State for Education and Science, was what Mr Shonfield calls a "fervent" adherent of the free market. He adds that to have gone ahead with a conference with the words "incomes policy" in its title might have cost the SSRC's budget up to £500,000.

Mr Shonfield took charge of the DES. Mrs Thatcher had very definite views about the kind of economists she liked—and did not like.

Mr Shonfield calls for safeguards for social scientists against ministerial and shifts in the official ideology of those responsible for social management.

# Criticism over closure of match factory

From Our Correspondent  
Gloucester

Workers at the Moreland match factory, which first produced "England's Glory" matches, were forced yesterday to accept that the plant's closure is inevitable.

Union leaders attacked the Department of Trade for failing to help to save the jobs of the 280 workers at the Gloucester factory, owned by Bryant and May.

Mr Bryan Weston, district secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, was joined by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, MP for Gloucester, in alleging that the industry department had encouraged Bryant and May to close the factory and expand in the development areas of Liverpool and Glasgow.

Mr Weston said: "The possibility of a workers' strike or cooperative could have been successful. There have been strong indications of government support."

He said the jobs of the Moreland workers were being sacrificed to the benefit of the Swedish Match Corporation, which has an interest in Bryant and May's parent company, Wilkinson Sword.

A statement from Mrs Oppenheim said: "It would seem as if the company has been given every encouragement by the Department of Industry to close Moreland and expand in the development areas. There seems to be no doubt they are being given financial aid to do so."

# Agreed changes to be kept in trade union Bill

By Our Political Correspondent

The Government will take into account amendments to the original Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill agreed by both Houses when it reintroduces the Bill. And it will use the provisions of the Parliament Acts to carry the measure in spite of any opposition from the House of Lords.

The clause containing proposals for a charter to protect the freedom of the press, carried in the House of Lords on the motion of Lord Goodman, was not agreed by the Commons and will not be included in the new Bill.

But ministers intend to make suggestions during the Commons passage through the Bill that will give another opportunity to consider provisions for a press freedom charter on the lines proposed by the Commons last session.

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## WEST EUROPE

## Hattersley pledge on British trawlers

By Hugh Noyes,  
Parliamentary Correspondent,  
Westminster

Mr Hattersley, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, made clear in the Commons yesterday that, although he was not prepared to take any action that might intensify the fishing dispute with Iceland, the Government would not hesitate to send in the Royal Navy should the need arise.

Replying to Mr James Johnson, Labour MP for Kingston Upon Hull, West, Mr Hattersley said the House: "I hope the industry understands that we are ready to provide them with whatever support and protection they need." It was not in the interests of the industry, however, that the Government should act in a precipitous or panic-stricken fashion. He hoped the trawlermen would endorse his judgment that at this stage, the Government should act moderately.

Although Mr Reginald Maudling, from the Tory front bench, gave his full support to the Government measures for protecting the fishing fleets, there were other Conservatives who urged the Government to send in the Navy at once. Mr Michael Brotherton, Conservative MP for Louth, demanded an assurance that frigates of the Royal Navy would be sent to the area, not necessarily to take action, but to show the fishing community that protection was being given.

Mr Hattersley replied that it would not be wise to give that assurance. The industry had endorsed the Government's view that the first step must be to see whether the civilian protection vessels could meet the needs of the fishing fleet adequately.

Not all Labour MPs accepted Government policy. Hugh Clayton writes: The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said yesterday that the fast Icelandic gunboats, which had tried to cut loose the nets of the Hull trawler Benella, the trawler was reported later to have saved its equipment and continued fishing.

Confusion about the attitudes of British skippers in the area persisted as about 30 outside trawlers were sent into close formation to assist support by four unarmed vessels.



Prince Rainier and Princess Grace of Monaco with their son, Prince Albert, greeting crowds on Monaco National Day.

## French budget debate enlivened by strikers

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Nov 20

About 50 members of the printers' union, who have been on sit-down strike at the *Parisien Libéré* since the night into the great court of the Palais Bourbon during the final stages of the parliamentary budget debate.

After they had unfurled a communist banner, the police were ordered to drive them out. But this action provoked protests from the demonstrators. The police, they protested, had violated the precincts of the Chamber of Deputies.

The news, rapidly spread through the House and deputies watched, many from the windows, with a mixture of indignation and satisfaction. There was talk of the troubles of 1936, 1968 and even of Lisbon. "Even in 1968, we never saw anything like that," one of them said.

This was true. In the events of May and June of that year, Parliament was ignored by demonstrating students; and last night M. Marene, a former Gaullist minister, felt it was a comforting sign that the assembly was no longer entirely overlooked by public opinion.

But the procedure of passing the budget has become so prolonged and tedious, both for those inside and outside the chamber, that *Le Monde* today compared the deputies to a group of tourists taken through

Versailles at the trot with orders not to touch anything.

However, the debate on the information budget took a violent turn when M. Vivien, the Gaullist special rapporteur of the finance committee, accused the striking *Parisien Libéré* printers of "indulging in acts of banditry, which had nothing to do with trade union freedom"; and M. Gosnat, the Communist Party spokesman, said the owner of the newspaper had carried out a real coup against the strikers with the complicity of the Government.

M. Filloud, a Socialist, said the unwavering intention of the Government was to abandon to their fate newspapers most in need of assistance.

M. André Rossi, the Minister of Information, emphasized the inevitable adaptation of the press to the competition of radio and television, which required the most far-reaching changes.

Direct state aid to the press, he said, amounted to 224m francs (about £24m), and indirect aid in the form of postal rates and tax rebates totalled 1,200,000 francs (£150,000), some 15 per cent of the total turnover of the press.

M. Rossi wondered whether, in view of the magnitude of the problems faced by the press, and of the desire of the state to maintain a pluralistic form of information, it should not benefit from particular assistance.

## Ex-SPD whip to pay £19,240 in tax case

Bonn, Nov 20.—A Bonn court today ordered Herr Karl Wienand, former chief whip of the Social Democratic Party (SPD), to pay DM102,000 (£19,240) for tax evasion and false accusations.

He had paid no tax on DM646,000 from 1967 to 1971, the court order said.

Part of the money came from the now defunct charter airline Paninternational, which went out of business after one of its jet aircraft crashed near Hamburg in 1971 with the loss of 22 lives.

Herr Wienand told a parliamentary inquiry in 1972 that the money he had received from Paninternational was repayment of a loan. But the weekly magazine *Der Stern* said at the time that Herr Wienand had signed a contract as a paid adviser with the company.

Herr Wienand, who is 48, gave up his parliamentary seat in November last year after stepping down as chief whip of the SPD three months earlier.

The court order said that Herr Wienand had falsely accused two reporters from *Der Stern* of lying, although he knew at the time that they had more or less reported the truth.

## Radio wavelength conflicts settled by compromise

From Our Correspondent  
Geneva, Nov 20

A measure of rationality has prevailed in the 100-nation conference on allocation of long and medium wavelengths for broadcasting in Europe, Asia and Australasia between now and the turn of the century.

At the outset, the seven-week conference appeared to face the impossibility of fitting several quarries into plain pots. Notifications were filed for more than 10,000 transmitters, with an aggregate power of 540 megawatts, compared with the existing 4,400, total power 150 megawatts.

Negotiations have reduced the total to about 7,000 with 2,000 low-power stations—1 kilowatt (1 kW) maximum—on three medium-wave channels, 1487, 1587 and 1602 kilohertz.

About 3,500 stations are to use directional antennas to minimize interference and a few others to reduce power for the same reason. Monaco's three 1,000 kW transmitters, for instance, will become two, each of 500 kW.

Mr Derek Rose, of New Zealand, the conference president, said today that the new assignment plan, coming into force in 1978, had already resulted in cancellation of transmitter orders by many countries in Europe and the Middle East.

For the first time Asia had a plan for the medium frequencies. China had participated fully in the conference.

According to an official, Britain "has come out of the conference very well and maintained its position", although there could be a drop in quality on Radio 3 in some areas due to an adjacent West German station.

Compromise won the day in many situations, except for the big guns in the East-West propaganda battle. The last radio waves conference was at Copenhagen in 1948.

## Illegal arms traffic case opens in Bonn

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, Nov 20

The trial of four men charged with illegal arms exports to areas of international tension opened today in the state criminal court in Bonn.

Gerhard Mertins, a 55-year-old former Wehrmacht parachutist and part-owner of the Bonn arms firm Mertes, and two other men, an engineer, are alleged to have broken the West German ban on exports of weapons to crisis areas. They are also alleged to have violated regulations relating to the reporting of certain exports to the authorities.

They are said to have exported arms worth £16m to India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia between 1965 and 1968, including fighter aircraft, bazookas and ammunition. The firm is said to have failed to pay almost £300,000 in tax.

## MPs' protest at £20,000 EEC party rejection

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, Nov 20

Children of the EEC's highly paid civil servants are to have their usual £20,000 Christmas party, in spite of misgivings about the cost during an economic recession.

In a reply to a written question from British and Irish socialist members of the European Parliament, the Commission says that "Christmas festivities of this kind are traditionally organized by all Community institutions".

The MPs, who included Lord Gordon-Walker and Mr William Hamilton, had asked how the Commission could justify the spending of such a sum when so many Europeans were unemployed.

## Russia concerned about its exit to the Atlantic

From Our Correspondent  
Oslo, Nov 20

Negotiations between Norway and the Soviet Union on the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two countries in the Barents Sea will conclude in Oslo on Monday. The previous round of talks was held this spring.

So far the discussions have centred on technical and legal aspects. The talks are held at the level of officials. In Norway's opinion, its national shelf extends from the mainland to the north, round the Spitsbergen archipelago, to the end of the shelf north of Spitsbergen.

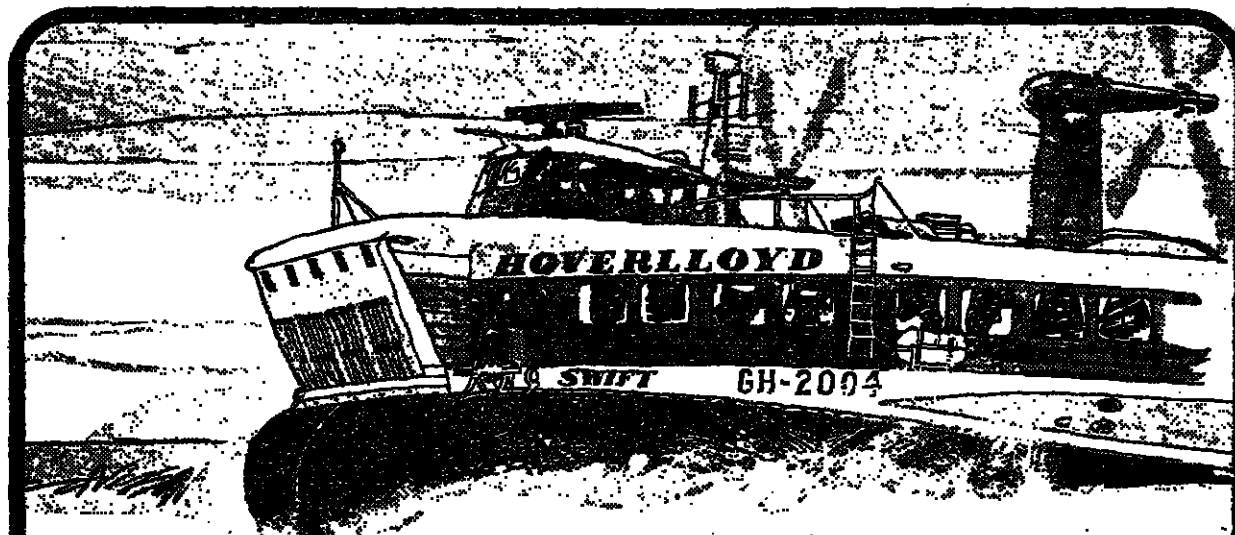
This claim is based on the view that Spitsbergen has no shelf of its own, as the territory is delimited, according to the provisions of the Spitsbergen Treaty of 1925. The Russians, the British and the Americans

have reserved their position on the Norwegian claim.

The real core of the problem is the strategic importance of the sea passage between Spitsbergen and the Norwegian mainland, which is a major exit to the Atlantic for the Soviet fleet of nuclear submarines stationed in the north. Any form of internationalization or increased international presence in the area could result in political problems.

It is known that a special Spitsbergen study is being carried out in the United States to provide the basis for an American policy. There is little prospect of progress in substance in the Soviet-Norwegian talks as long as the American position is undecided.

The study in Washington should be completed before the end of the year, but a policy still has to be formulated after that.



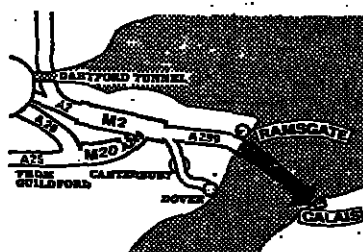
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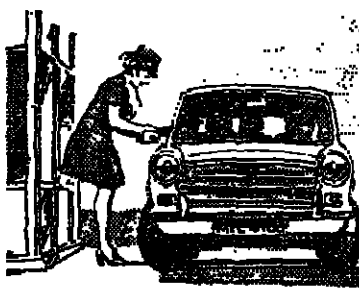
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## GENERAL FRANCO

# Most of world sees Franco death opportunity for creation democratic regime in Madrid

Foreign Staff  
The world greeted General Franco's death yesterday with a mixture of surprise and relief. For most countries, the death of the dictator raised hopes of a new era of closer links with a more democratic Spain.

It was the European Union expressed sympathy for the death of Franco and asked for Franco's widow.

It was not to say one of the message re the death of Franco, but how to respond to the passing of the dictator.

In coming weeks and months, EEC governments will be watching developments in Madrid. Any tangible sign that the Franco regime is coming to an end would encourage them to move towards a more democratic Spain.

In last month after the death of Franco, the Basque nationalists, in particular, are keen to see the Franco regime brought to an end. The Basque nationalists have become a full member state with varying degrees of enthusiasm.

Giscard d'Estaing is expected to be celebrated in Madrid on Wednesday for his role in the Franco regime.

last met Prince Juan Carlos for a private weekend in the Loire valley last February, he already showed the signs of support for the new king.

The Pope expressed "deep sorrow" and Dr. Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, sent condolences to Prince Juan Carlos.

In Hendaye, France, exiled Basque nationalists danced in the streets.

Mr. Olo Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, who recently described General Franco as a "bloody murderer", said today his death raised the hope that steps would be taken to give the Basque people the opportunity to build a society based on freedom, social justice and democracy.

In Moscow, *Izvestia* said that the death of Franco had been "covered by hundreds of thousands of corpses". Now he was dead there would inevitably be "a sharp, political struggle for the future of Spain".

It was a political group in Madrid and the time had come for "compromise solutions".

Señora Dolores Ibarruri, aged 79, the fiery communist orator of the Spanish civil war, who lives in Moscow, called for action by Spain's masses.

Known as La Pasionaria and now president of the Spanish Communist Party, she told *Tass* that changes in Spain would not come about by themselves.

President Ford paid a strictly formal farewell. Officials described the reaction in Washington as relief that the

general was now off the scene.

The United States will soon urge its European allies to accept Spain into Nato and the EEC (Our Washington Correspondent writes). However the Ford Administration firmly believes that no one—including Prince Juan Carlos—has the slightest chance of leading the political forces in Spain.

Thus what will happen in the next few months is deemed unpredictable, and fears are being expressed that there could be serious violence and bloodshed. Some democratization is seen but the twin dangers of opening up the process too soon to provoke a Portuguese-style reaction, or proceeding too gradually and provoking unrest of an equally explosive kind.

General Franco's death came at a time when the United States is preparing to promote its defence relationship with Spain by submitting to Congress a proposed extension of the agreement on American military bases in Spain. The United States feels that Spain has part of the strategic importance, particularly in view of the uncertainties in Portugal, Greece and Turkey.

It is thought that the question of Spain's admittance to Nato might be raised by the Americans at next month's half-yearly meeting of Nato foreign ministers at Brussels.

But opposition to the Franco regime has always been strong among the European partners, and it is unlikely that this attitude will change suddenly.

## OVERSEAS

# Phalangists suspect M Couve of Muslim bias

From Paul Martin  
Beirut, Nov 20  
The right-wing Christian camp declared its determination to pursue its hard line policy today as M Couve de Murville began to mediate between the warring factions in the Lebanon conflict.

All parties have declared their willingness to cooperate with M Couve de Murville in putting together the pieces of the Lebanese jig saw.

Christian disquiet over Franco's attempt to lead some "even handed" advice to the Lebanon has not been vented publicly. But Mr Pierre Gemayel, the right-wing Phalangist leader, whose forces are the strongest of the Christian armies, took the opportunity of M Couve de Murville's arrival to make his position clear.

In a statement published by *Al Anfal*, his party's newspaper, Mr Gemayel claimed that the core of the problem was the left's attempts to undermine democracy.

Given Franco's broad interest in the Arab world as a whole, and the low priority rating to which Lebanon has slipped, the Christian right expects anything but support from the French over their stand. In particular they believe that the French now favour replacing the six to five parliamentary and public service ratio, at present in favour of the Christians.

Beirut, Nov 20.—Heavy shooting and rocket fire in the city today killed at least 10 people, threatening the shaky ceasefire.

# New moves in Rhodesia dispute

African leader expected to visit London soon

By David Spanier  
Diplomatic Correspondent  
Dr Elliott Gabellah, one of the key figures in the African National Council in Rhodesia, who has taken Bishop Murrewa's side in the recent dispute, is likely to visit London soon.

With events moving in Rhodesia again, his visit could be of some importance. He is expected to arrive in London on Wednesday night, President Nyerere said. Mr Wilson for talks at 10 Downing Street yesterday. Mr Callaghan, the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, who saw Dr Muller, the South African Foreign Minister, earlier this week, was also present at the meeting.

Speaking in Oxford on Wednesday night, President Nyerere said Tanzania was not planning a war of liberation against South Africa. By its daily actions, however, the Government of South Africa was preparing the conditions for an internal revolution. The armed struggle in Rhodesia would have to be resumed and intensified until conditions were ripe for realistic negotiations.

"We very much regret the need for war", the President said. "It can only bring dreadful suffering to the people of Rhodesia, both black and white. It will therefore leave a heritage of bitterness which will make the eventual development of a non-racial, democratic society in that country very much more difficult."

Mr Nkomo has returned to Salisbury from a 10-day tour of neighbouring states. He expressed satisfaction at progress he was making on settlement talks with the Rhodesian Government.

Mr Nkomo, who is recognized by the Government as head of the African National Council, briefed President Kaunda, of Zambia, President Sir Seretse Khama, of Botswana, and President Nyerere on his three recent talks with Mr Smith, the Prime Minister, and members of his Cabinet.

# Ford plea to Congress on Kissinger subpoenas

Washington, Nov 20.—President Ford has asked the House of Representatives Intelligence Committee to withdraw three subpoenas of Congress citations recommended against Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

The White House said today that the President sent a letter last night to Mr Otis Pike, the committee chairman, saying that the group on reflection would agree that he had exercised his proper constitutional responsibility in directing Dr Kissinger not to comply with subpoenas for secret documents.

The committee cited Dr Kissinger for contempt on November 14 after demanding information dealing with eight covert intelligence operations from 1961, with the "40 committee" of the National Security Council which directs intelligence, and with alleged Soviet violations of the 1972 strategic arms accord.

The President invoked executive privilege—his right to withhold information from Congress—and the State Department said the contempt citations would damage Dr Kissinger's ability to conduct foreign policy.

In his letter to the committee, the President said the National Security Council had made "a substantial effort" to provide some of the requested information, and he called for a spirit of mutual trust and respect in resolving the conflict.

# UN report on Sahara cites Algerian view

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, Nov 20  
Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, recommended today that the General Assembly should give its views on the recent agreement on Spanish Sahara between Spain, Morocco and Mauritania.

In a report to the Security Council, he made no comment of his own on the agreement. But he pointed out that Algeria, which was one of the parties "concerned and interested" in the issue, did not accept the agreement and had said that it regarded it as null and void.

The agreement is in fact very different from the solution proposed by Dr Waldheim. He proposed that the United Nations should set up a temporary administration in Spanish Sahara. But the Madrid agreement provides for a three-power administration by Spain, Morocco and Mauritania.

In his view, one of the main tasks of the United Nations administration would have been to carry out some form of referendum to ascertain the wishes of the population. There is no mention of that in the Madrid agreement, which says only that "the views of the Saharan population, expressed through the Yemaa (local assembly) will be respected."

Morocco and Mauritania are each to appoint a deputy governor to assist the Spanish Governor-General until the Spanish withdrawal, which will be by February 28 at the latest.

Dr Waldheim's report says that in the Algerian view, the fundamental problem is the decolonization of Spanish Sahara, and any decision on this should be taken by the General Assembly.

# Arriving-in of new King ceremony tomorrow

from page 1  
Minister, Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco.

Nevertheless, it is expected that Señor Arias Navarro will offer his resignation as a matter of courtesy. The Prince could either accept it immediately or, more likely, ask him to stay on for a few weeks in order not to make the break with the past too abrupt.

Political reaction by the various opposition groupings came quickly after the General's death. The Spanish Socialist Party held an emergency meeting this morning, and issued a statement saying: "The death of the dictator is one of the final pages in the deep crisis which the regime is undergoing. With his death, a new chapter of our history begins, marked by the need to liquidate the authoritarianism which has made liberty impossible, and marked by the hope and the will to build a free and democratic Spain."

[According to news agency reports from Paris, the exiled Spanish Communist leader, Señor Santiago Carrillo, called on all opposition parties to emerge into the open to set up a provisional government.

"We have to bring together all those people, without exception, who wish to put an end to the spirit of civil war, to hand back the power of decision to the Spanish citizens and to set up a democratic regime," he said. "Any delay could prove dangerous for Spain, Europe and for peace and stability in the world."

The Spanish extreme left Frap movement welcomed the General's death, describing him as one of the biggest murderers in contemporary history and promising to intensify its struggle against the Spanish regime.

Prince Hugo de Borbon, the Carlist pretender to the Spanish throne, attacked what he termed an attempt to prolong the Franco regime with a "facist monarchy" headed by Prince Juan Carlos.

General Franco's fatal illness first became evident on October 17, when he was forced to cut short a Cabinet meeting at his palace. Officials first denied reliable unofficial medical reports that the General was seriously ill with heart trouble, and claimed that he simply had a cold.

However, four days later, the Government had to admit that he had suffered an attack of "coronary insufficiency". Since then, he endured an ever more painful and complicated series of ailments including lung congestion, internal bleeding, thrombophlebitis, peritonitis and kidney failure.

Prince Juan Carlos took over power on October 30 as acting head of state.

Leading article, page 17  
Obituary, page 19

# 's enemies are alert, message declares

v 20.—Following the death of General Franco, the message to the nation reads: "The hour approaches that give up my life and appear before me. I beg you, do not forget that the enemies of Spain and of Christian civilization are alert. Be on your guard, do not let them set aside all the interests for the highest interests of the fatherland and the Spanish people."

Spanish people, in achieving social justice and culture for all Spaniards and make this our first objective. Maintain the unity of the fatherland. Exalting the rich multiplicity of its regions as the source of the strength of the unity of the nation. In my last moment, I would like, in the name of God and to unite the names of God and Spain and embrace you all, to shout together for the last time: In the shadow of my death, toward Spain, long live Spain—  
Reuter.

# There's good news in the pipeline

Gas is good news for Britain. It already supplies about 30 per cent of the nation's useful heat. By 1980 this is likely to rise to as much as 40 per cent.

British Gas has worked hard and successfully to secure additional supplies of natural gas to meet the growing demand.

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BRITISH GAS



## OVERSEAS

# State governor is confident that tax-rise plan will prompt Mr Ford to rescue New York

From Peter Strafford  
New York, Nov 20

Mr Hugh Carey, Governor of New York State, has begun a determined attempt to get approval from the state legislature in Albany for new taxes for New York City. That is felt to be the key to getting President Ford to agree to federal help to save the city from bankruptcy.

Time is short, because New York faces another deadline next Tuesday, and is said to be \$60m (£29.5m) short of the cash it will need then. But Mr Carey seems confident that the money can be found, and is concentrating on getting action in Albany and Washington in time for the really critical date of December 11.

His calculation is that if he can get the state legislature to agree to the new taxes by this weekend, he can then go to Washington to see Mr Ford next week, and Mr Ford will then, he hopes, announce his support for federal assistance.

Mr Carey has, however, run into difficulties in Albany with both the Democrats, his own party, and the Republicans. The Democrats want to tax the city's commuters, as well as raising income tax, while the Republicans are saying that any tax increase will have to be on the sales tax applied to most purchases.

Both parties have to be taken account of, since the Democrats control the state Assembly and the Republicans the state

Senate. Mr Carey has attempted to persuade the Democrats to drop their opposition to a sales tax increase, on the grounds that it is the only way to avoid New York's bankruptcy.

On Republican insistence he has agreed to put off action on raising state taxes, which he also considers to be necessary. The Republicans are afraid that to raise state taxes would look like taxing the rest of New York state to save New York City and have said that Mr Ford does not insist on immediate action in this area.

One of the city's financial crisis is the subway, where economies have resulted in fewer trains and higher fares, bringing complaints from local groups.

The subway's troubles, in fact, date back well before the present crisis. Transit officials trace them back to the 1920s, when competition with the motor car began.

The subway now carries approximately the same number of passengers as it did during the First World War, when the city had 2,500,000 fewer inhabitants.

It is still a large number—more than 1,000 million a year—compared to some 640 million a year on the London Underground; and the subway serves many more stations than the Underground does: 461 to 219, over a slightly shorter total route length. But the downward trend seems to be continuing.

There have been three main effects of the financial crisis. The uniform subway fare, which you pay however far you want to go, has gone up from 35 cents to 50 cents; no new employees are now being taken on, which has meant a drop of some 2,000 over the past year; and train services are being reduced, mainly just before and after the rush hour.

Every time there is an increase in the fare, there are protests, and complaints that the transit authority is cutting its own throat by driving away passengers. Officials contest this, saying that though it is true there is a drop in passengers after every increase, it is only part of a longer-term trend in which people are using the subway less and less.

It is not only the fault of the motor car. There is the changing "profile" of the average urban resident, who tends to be older and poorer than in the past. There is, too, the fact that businesses have moved out of the city, and the change from a six-day week to a five-day week, which means less subway travel.

The New York subway has never made money, the officials point out, and it is further than ever from it today, with costs up so much. Present projections are for a deficit in the present budget year of some \$450m (about £225m), which will be made up partly by the city, partly by the state, and partly by the federal Government.

## New sweeps against guerrillas in Argentina

From Jane Monahan  
Buenos Aires, Nov 20

Eight thousand armed troops are out on the streets of towns all over Argentina, cordoning off areas and searching for guerrillas on a random house-to-house basis.

This vast campaign has resulted in the arrest of 1,300 people in the frontier town of Mendoza alone, after allegations of the discovery of a guerrilla training ground in the area.

Large-scale arrests have also been made in the industrial towns of Córdoba, Rosario and Santa Fe, as well as in the port, Bahía Blanca, and the popular seaside resort, Mar del Plata.

In Tucumán, a north-western province where a miniature Vietnam-style war in jungle areas has been waged between the Army and Marxist guerrillas for the past 10 months, officials also reported three guerrillas dead in skirmishes.

In the small mining town of Sierra Grande, in the south, more than 300 workers were detained by the police and the iron ore plant occupied by troops.

Miners had been on strike there since October 2 to demand higher wages and benefits in the face of an estimated 40 per cent decline in the real value of wages this year. Army spokesmen said there was strong evidence that the strike had developed into a revolutionary movement with groups of strikers linked to left-wing guerrilla organizations.

The stepping up of security operations has alarmed some Peronist and Opposition politicians because of the apparent autonomy allowed to divisional commanders in their regional searches and because of reports that it is only a matter of weeks before alleged anti-subversive operations and house-to-house searches begin in Buenos Aires itself.

Since Señora Perón's Government came to power 16 months ago, however, politicians have not raised their voices over the fact that not one alleged terrorist has been brought to trial.

Pressure on Señora Perón by politicians, with support from the armed forces, has been going on for several months. It has now reached dramatic proportions, however, and is forcing the Argentine President to make concessions, narrowing her margin of power.

Some of these concessions, like this week's announcement that national elections are to be brought forward to 1976, have had the temporary effect of palliating Argentina's otherwise violent and anti-democratic situation.

However, these concessions do not mean the same thing for Señora Perón and her group. Surrounded by allegations of violence and corruption, it has for long been recognized that the group does not have a plan, in any traditional government sense, but has been increasingly preoccupied with gaining time to cover a retreat.

To this end, it is as if any rabbit may be pulled out of the presidential hat, whether it be an announcement of early elections, a visit to a private clinic, or even attempts to cover a retreat by provoking a right-wing military coup. This is the conclusion many are drawing from a speech this week by Dr Hector Cáceres, a former Peronist president, in which he said the Government was "also trying to stir up trouble in the armed forces".

The majority of the armed services have stated frequently that they are not interested in such a classical Latin American solution.



Mr Ronald Reagan with his wife, Nancy, after announcing his candidacy for president.

## Liberal Republicans troubled by Mr Reagan's candidacy

From Our Own Correspondent  
Washington, Nov 20

Mr Ronald Reagan, the former film star and Governor of California, today took on Mr Ford for the Republican Party's nomination for President.

Just to make sure no one mistook the sound of the trumpet, as he put it, he announced his candidature here and flew off to sound it again in the first key primary election state of Florida and New Hampshire. In both he is given a fair chance of unhorsing the President.

His declaration brought the total candidates accounted seriously to 10 Democrats and two Republicans. Mr Reagan, implying that he will "oust Mr Ford, today said, he expected there would be more Republicans in before the finish.

Mr Reagan's hopes lie, at the primary stage, with the activists of the Republican Party who are predominantly right-wing; and at an eventual general election with the disgruntled and disillusioned of all parties who would find his advocacy of some Wallace-type views more

respectable than Governor Wallace's.

Democrats are delighted that they will no longer have the monopoly of divisive squabbling, and of challenge to an incumbent President. The Democrats relish the thought of deflating Mr Reagan the way they dispatched Mr Barry Goldwater, a former Republican presidential candidate, whose policy positions resembled his.

But there is also an echo for the country of Mr Eugene McCarthy's improbable challenge to President Johnson in 1968, which helped to force 1973's retirement. Liberal Republicans express deep concern.

Mr Reagan pretended today that it would all be very gentlemanly. He preached what he called his "Eleventh Commandment"—"thou shalt speak no ill of another Republican"—in declining to attack Mr Ford.

But his basic proposition, against "big brother Government" is that everything wrong with America begins in Washington, that he, unlike Mr Ford and most other candidates, is

unhindered by the forces that produce the problems—"Congress, the bureaucracy, the lobbyists, big business, and big labour".

Mr Reagan has for some months been a vigorous force in the burgeoning political campaign, mostly because President Ford started "running scared" of him long before many others took him seriously.

The harder Mr Ford worked to "out-Reagan Reagan" the more persuasive, at least to the Reagan camp, did Mr Reagan appear as an alternative. Mr Ford also did himself no good by relentless lacklustre campaigning, and by his apparent incompetence and insensitivity. His acquiescence in the withdrawal of Mr Rockefeller from his ticket gave the Reaganites the taste of blood.

Mr Reagan, whose speaking style is vastly overrated, nevertheless stands out in a field of "another Republican" as a performer's ability to score with the pay-off line. He can say some pretty blood-curdling things with a smile. "Too bad we can't have an arm-break of botulism," he said.

## Communists put off European summit

Berlin, Nov 20

The summit of European communist party leaders, caught by the Soviet Union, has been postponed at least until some time next year. This was made clear in a report of an editorial commission working on a joint document to cover the conference which was published today in the East German Communist newspaper Neues Deutschland.

The language of the report made plain that the commission has far from finished its attempt to find a formula acceptable to all. It said the committee would meet again in January and that "the date for convening the conference also will be discussed then".

Although details of the commission meetings are kept secret, it is believed the issue of independent national parties within a movement of "mass parties" is the main point holding up agreement.

Orthodox parties, such as the of East Germany, support Soviet domination of the communist movement. Others, such as Yugoslavia and Romania, want to lessen Soviet influence in their affairs.—AP.

## Settlers killed in battle with Brazil Indians

Brasília, Nov 19

Two hundred Indians of the Guajajara tribe have killed two white men after settlers seized their lands, it was learnt here tonight. The incident took place near Marajó, in Maranhão state, in north Brazil.

When 8,000 settlers took over the land, the Indians complained to the Government's Indian Foundation, which ordered the settlers to leave. About 200 of them remained, however, and yesterday, Senhor Mario Candido, a foundation official, went to the village with two Indians to ask the remaining white settlers to leave. Two of the angry settlers stabbed him, but the two Indians managed to escape.

They assembled 200 warriors and attacked the village, killing two white settlers. The settlers' homes were burnt and they were driven out.—Agence France Presse.

## Soviet space ferry test 'successful'

Moscow, Nov 20

A leading Soviet space official indicated today that the automatic docking yesterday of an unmanned Soyuz spaceship with the Salyut 4 orbital laboratory had been a test-run of a combined ferry and safety service for future manned missions.

Dr Konstantin Feoktistov, a senior designer under the Soyuz programme, also told that the 19-ton Salyut could easily take a crew of two for its third spell of manned occupation since being launched last December.

## Mrs Gandhi accuses China of hostile activities

Delhi, Nov 20

Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, who is on a visit to the strategic border state of Sikkim, today accused China, by implication, of hostile activities on India's borders.

The Press Trust of India (PTI), reporting from Gangtok, quoted Mrs Gandhi as saying at a rally that Sikkim had to be strong in the interests of India's security. She accused some countries of continuing to embark on "inimical activities on our borders".

"We have always sought amity and good relations with our enemy, but unfortunately the hands of friendship have been so far spurned," she said.

China accused India of annexing Sikkim earlier this year when the former Himalayan kingdom was absorbed as India's twenty-second state. India has heavy troop concentrations in Sikkim, potentially the fastest land route into India from Tibet.—Reuters.



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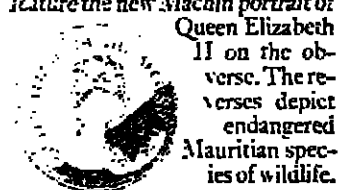
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## Cement tribunal orders envoy to stay in Lagos

Lagos, Nov 20

A Nigerian tribunal investigating large orders of cement placed by the Defence Ministry has refused permission for Mr Ahmadu Suka, the Nigerian High Commissioner to Britain, to return to his post.

Mr Suka, who came to Lagos at the weekend to appear before the tribunal, had said that he had urgent business in London today.

The tribunal is investigating what has been described as a "cement order scandal" during the former regime of General Yakubu Gowon, ousted in July by a military coup. It had heard evidence alleging that

while Mr Suka was Ambassador in The Hague he had used his influence for the granting of cement contracts to Dutch and Nigerian businessmen.

After giving evidence today, Mr Suka was told by Mr Babatunde Rajoru, the tribunal's chairman, not to leave Nigeria until further notice.

The Defence Ministry needs large supplies of cement for its project to build barracks for an Army of some 250,000 men. However, the new military rulers found that contracts had been signed for some 16 million tons of cement, and ships carrying cement cargoes had blocked the already overloaded Lagos port.—Agence France Presse.

## Singapore curbs student power

Singapore, Nov 20

The Singapore Parliament approved measures today to limit the powers of the Students Union, ignoring students' protests outside the House. The measures were adopted unopposed.

The police earlier broke up a demonstration by about 200

students who oppose government attempts to put their organisation under control. The Solicitor General had earlier this year said that the students' leader had assumed the role of a "leader of the opposition" and a "leader of the opposition".—Reuters.

## Science report

### Medicine: Detecting spina bifida

A simple blood test for the detection of spina bifida deformities in the unborn child should soon be a routine for all pregnant women, British researchers in The Lancet say today. A study on more than a thousand women in London and in the United States has shown that when the test is done in the fifth month of pregnancy it gives a reliable warning of the type of abnormality in about 93 per cent of cases.

Spina bifida and related malformations of the brain and spinal cord appear in about one in every 200 pregnancies; the cause is still unknown. Many of the 3,000 affected babies born each year die at or shortly after birth, but the survivors remain handicapped in spite of recent improvements in their surgical treatment.

Severely affected infants present doctors and parents with extremely difficult decisions about the child's future, and the child's life, but cannot restore normal health. The test that has been validated by Professor J. Chard and his colleagues at St. Bartholomew's and the London hospitals is a first-stage screening procedure. All that is needed is a single blood sample from the pregnant woman when the level of a substance, alpha-fetoprotein, is then measured.

Professor Chard's study shows that when the level is substantially higher than normal there is a near certainty that the foetus is abnormal. At that stage further tests can be made to confirm the diagnosis, and if the baby is definitely abnormal the mother can be offered termination.

These tests should soon become available in obstetric units throughout Britain, Professor Chard says. He estimates the annual cost to the National Health Service at about £2m for screening and follow-up, including the necessary termination of pregnancies. The benefit to the community would be a reduction in deaths at or around birth, and a big reduction in the number of children requiring long-term care for serious physical and mental handicaps.

"In crude economic terms," the value of the savings in health care alone will probably far outweigh any cost of a screening programme," the report says. By Mr Medical Correspondent Source: The Lancet, November 22, page 1012.



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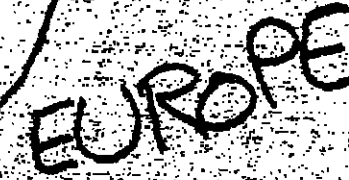


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# As Mr Thorpe steps out to spread the message, the Liberal crown princes are on the prowl

Mr Jeremy Thorpe is delivering in Salisbury tonight the first of what are considered in Liberal circles to be six major speeches. This is a deliberate initiative at a time when the fortunes of the party are at a low ebb. The Liberals were somewhat winded in the October election as a severe disappointment after the advance of February, no matter how they may rationalize it, and most of their more thoughtful members look forward with no great confidence to the next one. It is usually harder for Liberals to garner the votes of protest under a Labour Government than to attract discontented Tories when the Conservatives are in office.

The latest ORC poll in the *Evening Standard*, coming at a time when the Liberals have enjoyed little publicity, does not suggest that they have lost as much ground since October as is widely supposed. But it is the prospect of the election after next that brings a gleam to most Liberal eyes. Not surprisingly, perhaps, quite a few of their thoughts have been turning to Mr Thorpe. There is not about to be a leadership crisis but the crown princes are on the prowl.

So Mr Thorpe has three distinct tasks in these speeches. He has to confirm his own authority, to strengthen the morale of his party and to convince the general public that Liberals have great themes to propose beyond electoral reform. Their success in making this a live political issue has been their one great achievement since the last election. It

has been no small accomplishment, but a party needs to base its appeal on more than that. What Mr Thorpe is aiming to do is to establish constructive and distinctive positions for the Liberals on what seem likely to be the two dominating issues of the next few years: the economy and devolution.

His thinking on the economy is clearly conditioned by the belief that by next spring there is likely to be a challenge to the £6 pay limit requiring the Government to use their reserve powers—and probably needing the help of the opposition parties to get the legislation through Parliament. That would put the Liberals in a strong position. As the one party to have advocated an incomes policy as a permanent instrument of economic control they could support such a measure with conviction. It might conceivably bring nearer the long awaited dawn of realignment for which Liberals have been looking for more than a dozen years now. And in any case it would give them the opportunity to trade their votes for the Government's legislation in return for the adoption of specifically Liberal economic measures—profit-sharing, industrial democracy and works councils, for example.

Mr Thorpe has other structural changes in mind, such as a Select Committee on Taxation and the association of the opposition parties with Neddly. What he would not be prepared to accept is that the Government should pass controversial legislation with the help of opposition votes and then intro-



Jeremy Thorpe: three distinct tasks in what are considered to be six major speeches.

duce more left-wing measures to appease their own extremists. If opposition votes are vital then it is with the opposition parties that the deals must be done.

On devolution the Liberals present the rare spectacle these days of a party knowing what they want and united in pursuing it. Only the Nationalists at the moment can join them

in this proud claim. Where others see devolution in terms of keeping the Scots or Welsh the Nationalists have a broader concept. They would like to see a Federal Britain within a Federal Europe. Mr Thorpe believes there is a need both to devolve power within Britain and for Britain to share power on a European basis.

For the moment it is the first of these propositions that is the hot political issue. In Liberal eyes it is essential to press ahead with assemblies for Scotland and Wales not only because of the commitments that have been made but also because the government of Britain is too paralysed. Decisions need to be taken near the people who will be affected. Assemblies should not be a reluctant concession but an exciting innovation. The same considerations apply to the English regions, so that ultimately Westminster should become a federal Parliament with no more than about 200 members.

Mr Thorpe is not deterred by the apparent lack of enthusiasm among the English for the boon of regional assemblies. The Liberals, he believes, have a pioneering role to perform in waging a tremendous campaign throughout England on the positive virtues of devolution.

But Liberals are not uncritical worshippers at this shrine. They are insistent that assemblies must be elected by proportional representation, that they must be able to elect a majority because it is all the more important to give minorities an effective voice where one party is usually dominant—and essen-

tial to avoid a system where the Scottish Nationalists could win a majority of the seats without a majority of votes. But Liberals are also very keen to have proportional representation for the assemblies so as to strengthen the case for having it for Westminster. Principle and self-interest happily fuse together.

Two quite separate questions need to be asked about these themes. The first is simply whether Mr Thorpe has got his policy right. Will the Government be forced against their will to use the reserve powers on incomes policy? Is devolution, which has come to the forefront of British politics because of Scotland, in fact equally suited to the needs of England?

The second question may be more disturbing to Liberals. Even if the policy is right will it do them much good in party terms? Their record on policy over the past thirty years has been remarkably good. But they have been rather in the position of a boxer who has been along with their policies in the past and there can be no assurance that they will in the future. A real political renaissance must probably await either the realignment of parties or electoral reform, or both. But in the meantime the Liberals cannot afford simply to wait for the new Jerusalem. They must take to the road, as Mr Thorpe is doing, to convince people that they have a distinctive message.

Geoffrey Smith

## The American way of not having a heart attack

For years we have laughed at American and Canadian men for their obsessional attitudes to heart disease—their fuss about low-fat diets, their jogging round the park in the early morning, and their anxieties about gaining weight. Unfortunately our typically British refusal to contemplate any similar change in our way of life on the say-so of a few doctors seems to be proving a fatal error; for while each year more and more complacent middle-aged Englishmen drop dead from heart attacks the mortality from coronary thrombosis among health-conscious American males has declined by a quarter in the past decade, though it still remains the leading single cause of death.

As usual, the experts disagree about the explanation of this trend, postulating climatic changes and variability in the intensity of winter influenza as possible relevant factors. The most persuasive explanation is, however, the simple one: for 20 years Americans have listened to medical warnings about the nature and causation of coronary thrombosis, and have adjusted their pattern of life to take account of that advice, and they are now seeing the benefits.

The American executive stereotype is no longer the paunchy, nicotine-stained near-alcoholic of the 1950s; he is more likely to be a lean, tennis-playing enthusiast who eats a high-fibre low-cholesterol diet, has given up smoking, and will not drink at lunchtime.

How good is the evidence on which the Americans have based their change in habits?

Despite the vast amount of money spent on heart research since the Second World War, the answers are not as clear-cut as they might seem. Much of that effort went into assessing methods of treating patients with coronary thrombosis and improving their chances of long-term survival; only comparatively recently have the World Health Organization and national research bodies swung their attention to large-scale trials of preventive measures.

Those who demand scientific proof of the value of these measures will have to wait several more years before the results will be available; but there are already many aspects of the problem where the data are sufficiently conclusive for cardiologists to be reasonably certain of the advice that should be given in health education programmes.

The uncertainty stems from the nature of coronary thrombosis, which (unlike diseases such as tuberculosis or smallpox) has no simple, identifiable cause. What we know of causation is largely the result of studies of the characteristics of tens of thousands of patients who have had heart attacks.

These investigations have all shown a similar pattern. Death from a coronary thrombosis in middle-age is much more common in men than in women, and in both sexes the risk rises steadily with age. The men who die are mostly cigarette-smokers (15 or more a day), they often drink heavily, one or both of their parents may have died of heart disease at an early age, and they are found on medical examination to have high blood pressure and high blood levels of cholesterol and other lipids. Some of these factors, such as sex, are unchangeable; and it

remains true that if you want to live to the age of 90, you should make sure your parents are grandmothers already doing so. The other factors can, however, be modified with variable benefit.

Top of the list is smoking: it is the most important single risk-factor and the one most certainly reversible. There is no doubt that a man who stops smoking completely immediately reduces his risk of heart disease; and within a few years it drops to the level in life-long non-smokers. Similar immediate benefit comes from reduction of raised blood pressure, and for that reason every adult should have his or her blood pressure measured every few years: if it is found to be raised, treatment is simple, effective and life-saving.

More controversial are the two other aspects of prevention that have captured public attention—diet and exercise.

Heart disease is known to be more prevalent in countries such as Finland where the diet contains large amounts of animal fat than in those such as Japan where there is relatively little fat. Replacement of animal and dairy fats by "polyunsaturated" vegetable products—sunflower and corn oil and soft margarines—can be shown to lower the blood lipid levels and may well reduce the risk of heart disease. This theory has received wide support in north America, where most families are aware that a choice exists between animal and vegetable products and many have opted for the medically approved unsaturated fats. Perhaps, surprisingly, there is less convincing evidence that overweight individuals have a higher risk of heart disease, but there is no doubt that keeping the weight down.

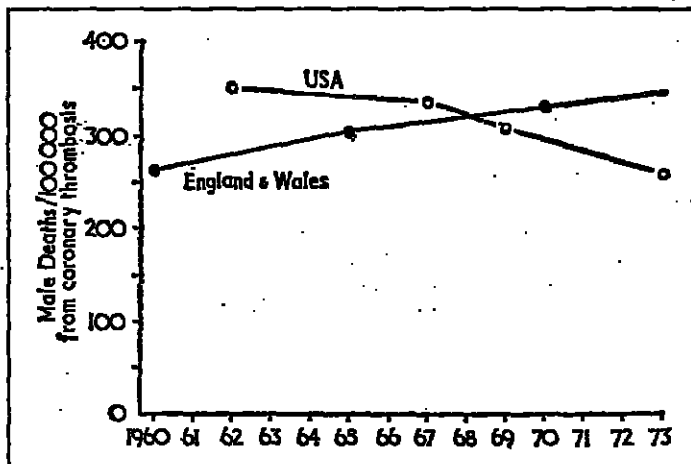
Exercise has become very popular in the USA and Canada,

where jogging and gymnasium workouts have become accepted parts of middle-aged life. The conscious lifestyle changes programmes are no doubt beneficial, but the evidence that regular exercise protects against coronary thrombosis is far from conclusive. Research in London has shown that men who take regular heavy exercise—digging the garden for 30 minutes two or three times a week, or playing squash regularly—are less prone to heart disease than those whose lives are entirely sedentary. Rather disappointingly, the results also showed that a round of golf or walking the dog round the square had no apparent effects on health.

Qualifications of this kind have to be made at present in discussing the scientific evidence; but the strong likelihood is that the uncertainties will disappear by the end of the decade. Meanwhile, the lesson from America is surely clear: if the public is reminded often enough of the facts of preventive medicine this message eventually has some effect.

One of the major criticisms that may be made of the National Health Service is the low priority that has been given to health education and preventive medicine. Throughout the Western world health planners are beginning to realize that too much attention has been given to glamorous, curative medicine at the expense of the less exciting task of disseminating information about nutrition, exercise and the dangers of tobacco and alcohol. It is, after all, the only health-care programme that makes any kind of long-term sense.

Dr Tony Smith  
Medical Correspondent



Changes in death rates from coronary thrombosis among comparable groups of middle-aged American and English men.

Bernard Levin

## A night at Siegfried's opera with no great expectations

TV licence war latest...

one of our intrepid warrior heroes has decided to take a stand

I have an urgent dispatch concerning the progress of the television licence war, which countermands all previous instructions. (My most recent column on the subject appeared on Saturday, November 15, when the paper did not appear because of the strike—and if any warrior who missed it and wants a copy will send a fee I shall gladly furnish him.)

A test case is being brought by one intrepid fighter, and a warrior has been served on the Home Secretary: our hero seeks a declaration by the court that the proposed revocation of his licence is unlawful and invalid.

The hearing starts next Tuesday, before Mr Justice Phillips, and morale is very high; all other troops should stay in position, taking no action at all but keeping their weapons clean, bright and slightly oiled, until they hear further from me. I regret to say, incidentally, that the judge has no power, in ruling on the application, to order the entire permanent staff of the Home Office to be hanged, so that will have to wait until we seize power.

With racial considerations at Bayreuth, though what Cosima thought of his attitude history has mercifully failed to record, for she was, especially in her old age, an appalling antisemite. (So, you might say, was Wagner himself, but I think it would be more exact to say that he was simply paranoid on the subject.) Winifred's enemies have called her a Nazi, but I have never believed that she was anything but a goose; her association with Hitler (she was formally condemned by a post-war tribunal as a "major collaborator") was shaped by her one all-consuming desire, which was to keep her sacred trust and ensure that Bayreuth survived. (She rejected with horror a suggestion from Hitler that the Clichés at the end of the Ring should have swastikas on their shields, and did so, it is clear, for purely artistic reasons.)

Even if Siegfried had been determined to compose, he might have had enough sense to avoid it; but no doubt if you are the fruit of the loins

of Everest you cannot be expected to see yourself as the world will see you; at any rate he seemed to have had no illusions about the quality of his own works, and recognized that they would probably not have been staged if it had not been for the name he bore.

Siegfried was a conductor as well as a composer, though not, it seems an outstanding one; though that is always a dangerous thing to say, considering the number of record-manias there are in the world, forever exchanging discs of almost unimaginable rarity, not to speak of obscurely. But there is a famous description by Shaw of the last concert Siegfried conducted in London. It was the *Master-singers*, and Shaw said that taken at an impossibly crouching, slow speed, it was, GBS claimed, "murdered" him the police, and the it got to the bit at the end, together, Siegfried did thing impossible—he showed it down still fit, and the effect, said Shaw, "magical", transforming music into a great, broad harmony.

Safely to the opera in a comfortable mibus

I wish I had heard that though mind you, I did hear Beecham conduct the *Master-singers*, and Knappertsbusch, too—the latter in a production in which the guilds arrived for the last scene by water, floating down the Pegnitz in decorated barges, though the Pegnitz, actually, is a miserable little trickle, quite out of scale with Nuremberg. It wanders out of the town and goes through a village which is called Pegnitz, and which contains an exceptionally agreeable hotel, run by the good Herr Pfum, which means plum; Mr Plum lays on a comfortable mibus for his guests who are going to the opera at Bayreuth (only half an hour away), and it brings them safely back afterwards. I stayed at the Pfum when I went to the Ring at Bayreuth last year, and the drive back in the bus was magical; too, nobody spoke at all, on any of the four nights, and we rode through the darkness with nothing but all that splendid lighting in our heads. Shall I go to Bayreuth next year, for the centenary of the Ring? Boulez is conducting it—for the first, and they say, the last time—but there is an unworldly producer, chosen apparently because he is the director (or possibly the *cr. juste*) in Paris, which sounds ominous. I shall certainly stay at Pfum's if I do go; did I mention that when the bus gets back there is a magnificent buffet laid on, with oodles of turkey and heads of cabbage, and sausages and cheese and whatnot? We shall see; meanwhile, there is *Der Friedensengel* to be attended to. I promise not to write about it afterwards.

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## While you're eating between meals, he's dying between meals.



Publicity about the plight of the world's starving children is dying down. But their problem is greater than ever. All over the world children are dying for want of food.

For food, we need money. For money, Save the Children is looking to you.

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## The Times Diary

War at sea, but all so friendly on land

had one of their six boats refitted in Denmark.

The patrol boats do not confine their harassment to the British vessels. Last year they arrested 21 of their own trawlers for fishing in the spawning grounds, confiscated their gear and sold their catches for the benefit of the shaky Icelandic treasury. Every little helps in a country where there has been a 54.5 per cent inflation in the last year—more than double that of Britain.

The cod war continues to dominate the Icelandic newspapers, but among people at large there is little evidence of strong anti-British feeling. Some of the European ban, most newspapers were extremely rude about Roy Hattersley after his hasty departure earlier this week, but Government officials are apologetic about such excesses, saying that Hattersley was in fact amiable and charming.

It is not so much the cod war that has stirred the Icelanders into a lather over their fish, but the recently published report by the Marine Research Institute in London, and further studies by British and Icelandic marine biologists, which warn that the cod stocks in Iceland waters could be completely exhausted by 1979.

"These figures have put the fear of God into everybody," said one of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials. The biologists have been warning for years about over-fishing of the cod, but nobody took much notice. Now that they have produced firm figures, they have put everybody up a tree.

"Others sometimes forget the dependence of this country on cod. We have no other export of any consequence, although we are building up aluminium smelting. We have to import almost everything, foreign currency is hard to get, and we have a thumping balance of payments deficit. Like everyone else, we are raising huge loans in Kuwait, but if the cod goes, we go with it."

Another consequence of the cod war is that it effectively prevents Iceland selling any fish to the EEC; while one member nation is in dispute, there can be no tariff agreement with any of the others. Because of a long-standing tariff dispute with Germany, Iceland has been unable to trade with Europe for the past five years. But agreement with the Germans is expected soon.

A deal on fishing quotas with the Germans is no problem, said the ministry man. "German housewives do not seem to like cod, so their trawlers come here looking for pollock and perch; they are welcome to them." Because of the European ban, most Icelandic fish has been going to the United States and the Soviet Union. These two countries have the largest embassies in Reykjavik with China, now a major buyer of Icelandic aluminium, running a close third, with an army of translators and interpreters.

What end do the Icelanders see to the cod war? "Either one or both of us will have to back down sooner or later," said the ministry man. "Until then we must expect the same incidents, the same inconvenience, the same ill-feeling as last time, and keep our fingers crossed that no one gets hurt."

Meanwhile, on the Monopoly front, the news is bad for Britain. Ken Jones, the British champion, failed by a single point to beat the European final. However, under the liberal rules of the tournament, that does not disqualify him for the world finals in Washington next week.

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PARKING ALONG THE CENTRE OF THE CAR PARK CAUSES DESTRUCTION

This dire warning appears at Starebrook underground station in East London, where it was photographed by Blanche Hammond of Old Barlow.

**Up for air**

Lawrence Durrell is visiting London for a few days from his home in the South of France, and does not seem to be enjoying it much. Yesterday he unveiled a plaque placed by the London Hellenic Society on the wall of a house in Regent's Park, commemorating the fact that Constantine Cavafy, the Greek poet, lived there from 1873 to 1876.

Durrell, who is 63, looked well and bouncy, but effects a profound pessimism. At a cocktail party at a hotel near by recently he said that his life recently had involved "moving from pillar to post". He described his large French house as "like a Yécherché lunatic asylum."

The first of his new cycle of novels, called *Monseigneur*, was published here last year and more recently in the United States where, Durrell said, it was badly reviewed but is selling fairly well. He is two-thirds of the way through the next instalment, to be called *Buried Alive*.

## Final situation

I have probably exhausted the possibilities of the situation of Swindon sends me a letter saying that it is a quotation from Mikhail Sholokhov's *And Quiet Flows the Don*, published between the wars:

"Today a revolutionary situation is not present."  
"But what do you mean by 'situation'?" Chubukov interrupted. Bunchuk started at him as though he had just been awakened from sleep, and rubbed his brow with his finger, trying to grasp the question. "I asked, what do you mean by 'situation'?"

Richard Bignall, who produced Madame Bovary for BBC Television, is sending me a letter saying that it is a quotation from Mikhail Sholokhov's *And Quiet Flows the Don*, published between the wars:

There were three Madame Bovarys in the play. Miss Churchman played Bovary's first wife, who screamed at the first sight of the doctor. Miss Churchman played Bovary's second wife, who screamed at the sight of the doctor. Miss Churchman played Bovary's third wife, who screamed at the sight of the doctor.



Two largest Italian islands are alike in size and in their exotic appeal to the outside world. Otherwise, they could scarcely be more different. In special Report *The Times* correspondents in Italy compare the experience of Sicily and Sardinia in regional government, industrial development, culture and tourism. The report concludes with profiles of the Sicilian writer, Leonardo Sciascia, and of the Sardinian marxist, Antonio Gramsci, one of the founders of the Italian Communist Party

# Sicily and Sardinia

Positives at heart

Nichols

its heart in the centre of the port of the makes Sardinia y, unlike any eranean island. ter, unlike any a Europe. Sar- rust the sea, ough they are, ively feel that ight them enc- o their archaic based on the cery of the of which still the opposite. sts count. Drive ral Sicily and driving on the Enna, perched k in the centre and the huge ks largely un- almost nothing sed to it in the centuries. ever will. But e to life, and e this but feel sit by the nd eat freshly and raw sea- are not the obster on a of Sardinia, roasted over the pastures centre. the second in the Medi- Sicily the respectively five million hey are quite any reach of- steamer be- and Palermo. their his- nular: many ent occupiers own roles in ing process about the as a united enally they ss alike. a preference er of these something of a character. absorbed of the Balkans, but not many, managed to keep themselves ne. In many ne so many of European development to the extent that central Sardinia has managed to remain ab and Nor- th is one of the objects of a rmo. The mubly, the sent, sits in he Normans. The culminating moment of historical drama was the massacre by the Sicilians of their thirteenth-century French oppressors in the uprising known as the Sicilian vespers. In the words of Sir Steven Runciman: "It altered fundamentally the history of Christendom". Sardinia has nothing to



For Sicilians it is the coasts which count; whereas Sardinians distrust the sea. Left, fishing nets for tuna in Favignana, Sicily, and right, countryside at Irgoli, typical of Sardinia's pastoral heritage.

This autumn the regional authorities were facing two issues: how much money for development was available and how it could best be used.

This process of drawing up an inventory was accompanied by a much broader process of consultation than had hitherto been known: politicians asked the opinions of unions and professional associations before drawing up new legislation on social and economic questions. The Christian Democratic leadership was seeking greater stability by coming to a far more complete working arrangement with the Communist opposition—a political decision of greater importance in view of the regional elections due in the spring.

The Sardinians have also been overhauling their regional machinery, and they, too, are under pressure for change in the political field. The two cardinal dates in recent Italian political history are May, 1974, when a Christian Democratic effort at repealing divorce was defeated by referendum, and June this year when local government elections showed a strong swing to the Communists.

The Sardinians were the first to confirm the nature of this change. Their last regional elections took place a month after the divorce referendum. Despite the fact that the Rome parliament pointedly voted 600,000 lire for further aid to Sardinia shortly before the vote, the swing to the left in the region was strong and showed that the divorce result had its political element. The local government elections throughout most of the rest of the country—they did not take place in Sardinia and Sicily—confirmed the Sardinian decision.

Both islands have every historical justification for the autonomy which they enjoy and could well be preparing to put it to better use, despite the discouragement which the economic recession brings.

P.N.

## Regionalism profits from past errors

Too rich an experience can be as indigestible as too hard an experience. Sicily and Sardinia have had to face such problems in finding their places as semi-autonomous regions within the framework of the postwar Italian Republic.

Both belong to a group of five regions with their own special statutes. Sicily was granted its semi-autonomy in May 1946 even before the republican constitution came into force. The sense of urgency was provided by the pressure of separatist feeling.

Sardinia had no such strength of feeling. There was probably less confidence than in Sicily that an economically poor island could live a separate existence after centuries of occupation and dependence. The weight of feeling in Sardinia was and remains in favour of attempting social advance as part of the general progress marking the post-reconstruction stage in Italy as a whole.

The statute granting semi-autonomy was approved in 1948 and is less generous than that which the Sicilians had obtained, but not unreasonably so: Sicily is much larger than Sardinia and also felt embittered by the strength of its separatism to a particularly open-handed treatment.

Sicily's career as a semi-autonomous region has brought it under heavy criticism. The waste of funds and resources (one of the constant themes of Danilo Dolci, the author) through a lack of planning, through an over-sensitive regard for political considerations and through an inflation of the region's bureaucracy far beyond rational requirements are frequent accusations made against the Sicilians.

Allegations multiply about the political influence of the Mafia, whereas no connexion is ever suggested between political interests and bandits in Sardinia. Goethe saw Sicily as the essence of the Italian experience—the "key to it all"—and less sympathetic observers have suggested that in this postwar period the Sicilians have shown that they possess the Italian vices with fewer of the virtues.

Regional administrations have frequently shown an alarming rate of collapse. From 1967 to 1973, for instance, the regional assembly sat on 580 days while 443 days were lost for want of an administration. In less than two years (1962-64) Signor Giuseppe d'Angelo, a leading Christian Democrat, led six different administrations.

The Sardinians maintain that they have been more correct than the Sicilians, both in the personal conduct of their politicians and in the way they have attempted to face up to the problems of their region.

The extent to which the client system has been adopted is less. The amount by which living standards have been raised in the past quarters of a century is notable by comparison with much of the rest of southern Italy and the islands. Planning is written into the Sardinian statute and, if in nothing else, Sardinia has become a comparatively short time a new centre of tourism.

Sardinians also point out that they have been inept in the handling of their regional prerogatives. Despite the long tradition of semi-independence in the lives of rural communities the region has been too inclined to centralise its presence in Cag-

liari on the southern coast. At the northern end of the island there are complaints that it was quicker to go through Rome than through Cagliari.

Planning has remained a revered principle rather than a reality. Apparently forgetting the old maxims about the dangers that can appear from across the waters, the region has placed a disproportionate amount of resources to favour petrochemicals, an industry that employs few people, clashes with tourism because of the pollution it brings and adds the real threat that the powerful industrialists pressing this form of development on the island will overshadow

the local politicians who are less experienced in the handling of power.

Neither island has been able to find solutions to the essential problem of unemployment and emigration continues to rob both islands of some of their more vigorous inhabitants. Both are now being faced with the return of men who left because they could find no work and are having to come back because the European recession has cost them their jobs in Germany, Belgium or Northern Italy.

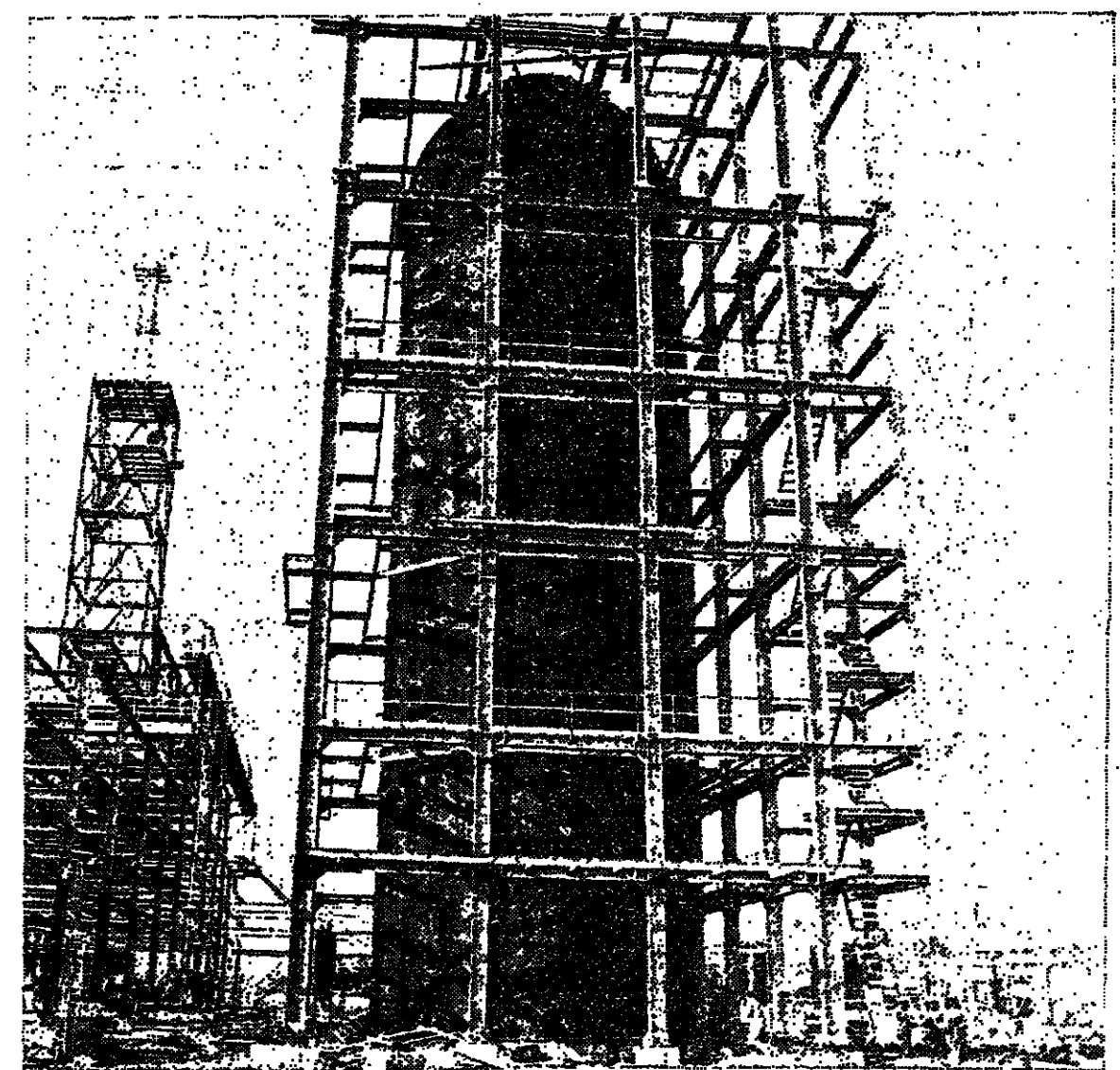
Both islands have suffered as a result of the two pillars of Italian foreign policy. The Sicilians feel that member-

ship of the European Community has damaged their agricultural interests.

Sardinia bears more than what it regards as its fair share of the Nato alliance. It has missile bases, a German airbase, a support ship for nuclear submarines and, a particularly troublesome example, a huge depot on the outskirts of Cagliari itself.

Sicilian regionalists are convinced that the lessons of past mistakes are being learnt. Planned development is now seen to be essential in place of the waste of resources on individual projects decided piecemeal frequently with some local motive in mind.

## A new, large industrial concern



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Once completed the planning and building of new plants, Rumianca in Cagliari will become an industrial concern of international importance, both from the point of view of size and from that of technology. Cagliari's plants will produce about 300,000 tons per year of

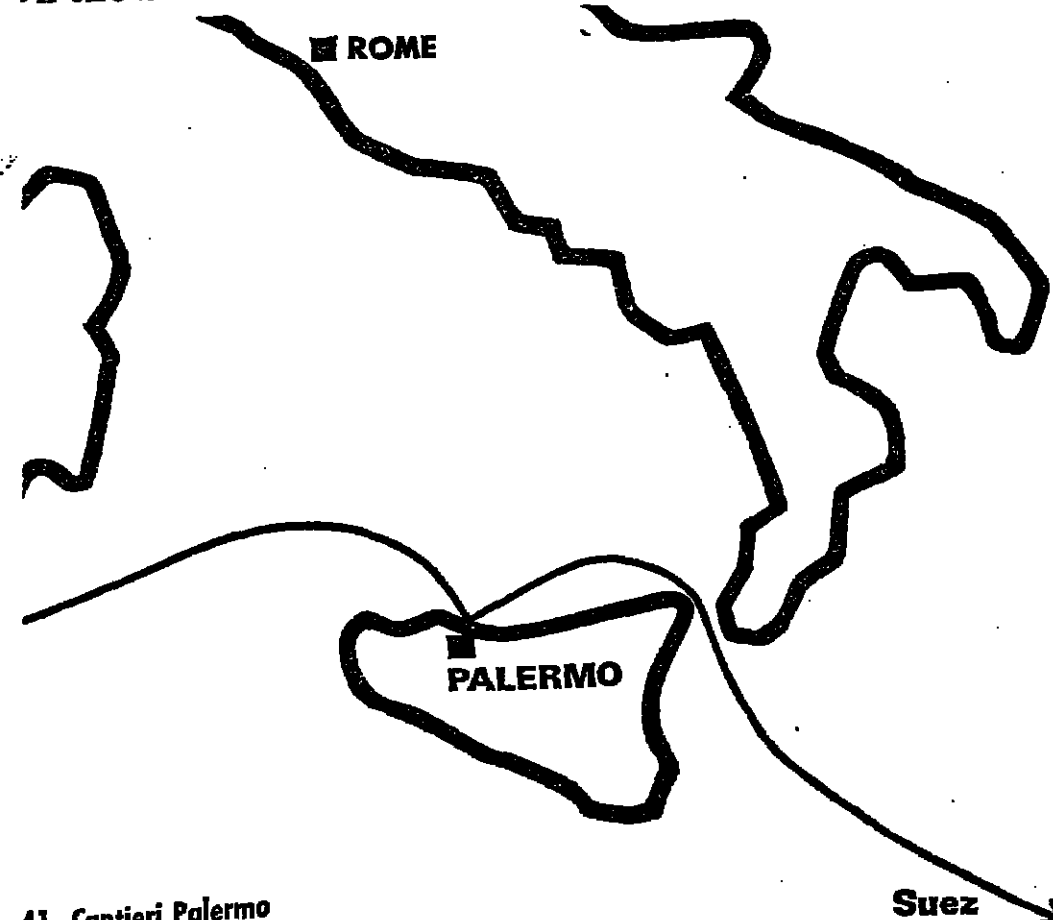
plastic materials, including high and low density polyethylene, polyvinylchloride and polystyrene, thus trebling its present output. The main raw materials of the highly integrated concern will be virgin naphtha and salt.



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## Dependence on oil refining resented

by John Earle

"We do not want to become the victims of the consequences of such an un-economic approach have to be faced."

It is hardly the atmosphere to attract foreign capital investment, however desirable. Both regions offer supplementary incentives to the owners of the Cassa per il Mezzogiorno and have their own special credit institutions, Iri in Sicily and Cirs in Sardinia.

Both regions, however, are in conversation, typifying the feeling of revulsion in the islands against their dependence on the petrochemical industry.

Italy has become Western Europe's biggest crude oil refinery thanks to what seemed 10 or 20 years ago a sensible decision to install a refinery in the islands, placed in the Middle East to the west of the consumer markets of the West.

Now their inhabitants resent the consequences: pollution, profits sent back to the continent, and the loss of jobs to affect the continuing trouble of emigration (700,000 from Sicily in 10 years; 150,000 from Sardinia in 20). They feel exploited.

Signor Giammaria said Sardinia refined 18 million tonnes of oil products surplus to its consumption, and the regional government had decided not to allow any new expansion of refining capacity.

The petrochemical industry in Sardinia was developed by Signor Mino Rovelli of SIR, a David to the Montedison Goliath of Signor Eugenio Cefis. Signor Rovelli has built from nothing (and is still expanding) the Porto Torres complex, the largest industrial installation in the island, and is pressing ahead in central Sardinia with an artificial fibres complex in scarcely veiled opposition to a joint Montedison-ENI venture at Ottana.

Since the 1960s SIR's associate, Rumianca, has had a chemical plant on the lagoon outside Cagliari, where it used to obtain virgin naphtha from Signor Angelo Moratti's Sarsa refinery at Sarrabus, until a dispute between them after the Arab-Israeli war interrupted the flow. Rumianca's new plant, complete with marine terminal, is well advanced.

But there is conflict behind the scenes. Rumianca's estate, including valuable salt pans, lies on marshland and lagoons earmarked for development as the Cagliari industrial area and international container port. Work is in progress and the first phase is expected to be ready by 1979.

The promoters argue that Cagliari will offer good prospects as an international centre for transshipping containers to feeder lines radiating to the rest of the Mediterranean, notwithstanding the well-organized and larger scale facilities which the French will provide at Fos-sur-Mer.

### Environmentalists' anxiety

The Cagliari development is being followed anxiously by environmentalists, who hope that it will not become the flamingo which, on migration, uses the lagoon as one of their few resting places in this part of the Mediterranean.

In Sicily petrochemicals are mainly concentrated around Priolo-Augusta in the south-east (Montedison and Esso-Rasim), Gela (ENI), Milazzo (Monti). At Priolo alone, the biggest single Montedison installation in the Mezzogiorno, the company plans to spend a further 465,000 lire (about £332m) on expansion. It is engaged in a joint project there with ICI for the production of aniline. The island has few other large-scale industrial plants except for a car assembly by Fiat at Termini Imerese.

Signor Rovelli is also knocking on the door in Sicily through a company (Sarp) formed jointly with the Sicilian regional authorities for a chemical plant at Licata on the south coast. It would use ethylene to be supplied to it and other big clients from a planned storage cracking complex under a consortium (ENI, Montedison, Liquigas and Sarp). But the plans appear to be progressing slowly and instead Montedison may be joined by ENI in expanding ethylene production at Priolo.

Lacking the world's established industrial structure, the weaker economies of the two islands are bearing the brunt of recession. As elsewhere in the Mezzogiorno, there has for years been a gap between the grandiloquent allocations of millions of lire for development purposes and the practical means of putting them to use, many funds remaining unspent or being diverted from their declared objectives.

In the boom years of the 1950s and 1960s it mattered less if attention was focused on the dispensation of grace and favours or the vote-catching appeal of political patronage rather than man-

gerial efficiency. Now the consequences of such an un-economic approach have to be faced.

The inhabitants, too, show a contrast in their attitude to the sea. The Sicilians are fishermen, and the 400 sea-going vessels of Mazara del Vallo form one of the biggest fishing fleets in Italy. The pity is that they have fished their home waters bare and like to operate off the Tunisian coast, with the result that a series of arrests and incidents brought tension for a time last summer between Rome and Tunis reminiscent of the Anglo-Icelandic cod war.

The Sardinians are a rare example of islanders who dislike getting their feet wet. They have a saying that the devil comes from the sea. It has indeed brought a long list of invaders in history, from Phoenicians to Spaniards, from Barbary pirates to, as some would maintain, today's polluting petrochemical industries, international tourist developers, and Nato firing ranges.

The real Sardinia lies inland, in the wild and inaccessible fastnesses of Gennargentu and Supramonte, refuge of shepherds, outlaws and bandits.

Both islands benefited after the war from the elimination of malaria and underwent land reform aimed at parcelling out big estates to the landless. Results fell short of expectations, particularly in Sicily, where the *latifundia* were often divided only of the poorer land.

Empty shells of farming settlements bear witness to the failure to coax smallholders from living in distant villages. It is argued by its supporters, however, that land reform had some effect in helping to curb emigration and to damp down Sicily's postwar wave of agrarian violence.

The Sicilian Government regards agriculture as a priority. A Christian Democrat former regional premier, Signor Vincenzo Giammaria, is assessor, or regional Minister, for agriculture. The main effort is directed towards support for cereals, citrus fruit and wine, all of which are in crisis, and the promotion of greenhouse crops and stock-raising, which are judged particularly promising.

The regional government is therefore gradually phasing out operations until only a few mines remain, and at the same time searching for partners to identify and invest in alternative projects. EMS is jointly involved with the Italian state oil corporation ENI in an ambitious project to bring Algerian natural gas to the Italian mainland by an undersea pipeline by way of Tunisia.

Last year ENI made test layings of pipe across the Strait of Messina to the Canary Islands, but the absence of progress reports recently suggests that the plan may have been shelved.

It seems it may share the destiny of the plan for a Messina road and rail bridge to link the island to the mainland, which has been talked about for years and has been the subject of an international design competition, but never appears to be nearer realization.

If Sicily has the difficulty of its sulphur mines, Sardinia has a series of declining mining activities, notably lead, zinc and coal. These are mostly in the south-west, where also, at Porto Vesme, important installations of the aluminium industry exist, though the bauxite required is not found locally but is imported from overseas.

The low-grade Sulcis coal mines were promoted for strategic reasons by the Fascist regime, which in the 1930s founded the mining township of Carbonia, employing in its heyday 30,000 miners, now reduced to fewer than 10,000.

However, the rising cost of oil has made Sulcis coal competitive again as a fuel for electric power generation and as reserves amount to about 140 million tons, the Government intends to give the mines a new lease of life.

This sector will receive priority attention, along with others in the Government's overall industrial policy such as agricultural businesses and the promotion of small and medium-sized manufacturing firms. Tourism, too, has far-reaching possibilities. The Aga Khan's consortium for the Costa Smeralda in the north-east is going ahead with building a marina for 485 yachts and a resort as well as a clubhouse for the recently laid-out golf course.

Though it is human nature to blame distant Rome and the petrochemical industry for much that has gone wrong, they have nevertheless contributed something to the other side of the balance sheet. Both islands are benefiting from rapidly developing road systems and improved air links. Petrochemicals, even if they have not provided the hoped-for employment, have at least stirred the atmosphere and started people thinking of the need to approach the future in a more realistic way.

## Shepherds now take the bus for a shift in the factory

Sicily is donkey and mule country, Sardinia is the home of the sheep and the mule does not thrive there. This, if anything else, symbolizes the different natures of the agriculture of the two islands, however similar their industrial destinies may be.

The inhabitants, too, show a contrast in their attitude to the sea. The Sicilians are fishermen, and the 400 sea-going vessels of Mazara del Vallo form one of the biggest fishing fleets in Italy. The pity is that they have fished their home waters bare and like to operate off the Tunisian coast, with the result that a series of arrests and incidents brought tension for a time last summer between Rome and Tunis reminiscent of the Anglo-Icelandic cod war.

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Sicilian production of hard wheat meets difficulties because of the large-scale, more efficient techniques of North America. The hills of citrus fruit and wine are laid at the door of the European Economic Community, which grants facilities for citrus imports from other Mediterranean producers and has yet to draw up a proper wine policy.

The Sicilians maintain that there is nothing to beat the flavour of their red-streaked oranges, though they admit that other products may be ahead in offering fruit with smaller or no pits.

Their cheaper wines, used in France for blending with lighter brands, have been hit by what Signor Giammaria called the absurd decision of the French Government to impose an import tax, and the Palermo Government has asked Rome to defend its interests more forcefully.

### Improving strains of cattle

A place of their own in the market is occupied by the desert wines of Marsala, developed originally by British exporters.

Stock-raising should have good prospects in the interior, with official assistance offered to farms and farming equipment, artificial insemination and the improvement of strains of cattle. The aim is to enable Sicily to be self-sufficient in meat. It is far from being so at present and a certain number of importers farm a profitable ring which they would like to see broken.

Three quarters of Sicily's agricultural land is regarded as suitable for the greenhouse cultivation of fruit and vegetables. The average over Northern Europe is that heating is needed for at most a month in the year. The centre for this production is Ragusa, in the south-east, the home town of Signor Giammaria.

The regional government is giving assistance with a law passed last summer allocating 80,000 lire (£57m) for citrus fruit and with a 120,000 lire (£85m) Bill before the regional assembly for greenhouse production, stock-raising, vineyards and cereals.

Lack of water is a big obstacle to agriculture in an island where drought may last for four or five months in the year. The assessors estimate that needs will rise greatly in the next 20 years, and plans have therefore been drawn up for the expenditure of large sums

on reservoirs and irrigation networks.

The boldest onslaught on agricultural poverty in Sardinia has been launched with schemes to plant petrochemical-textile industries in Tiro valley. A joint Montedison-ENI venture cost about 300,000 lire (about £20,000) to build the SIR group is building several factories in the area.

The smokestacks at Tiro, said to be some of the highest in Europe, already a family sight, but there is no sign of housing for workers. It has been decided to encourage shepherd-workers to stay in their villages, commuting by a network of bus services that they and their families will not be up from the land.

### Double life in the factory

It is too early to say the policy is a success, but the substitution of shift work for the traditional day shift, determined by weather seasons but not by hours, is proving a strain for some. The double life of travelling and working at the factory is tending the flock makes for physical tiredness.

The realization that a factory wage does not fulfil hopes of immediate prosperity has brought almost a phenomenon of rejection, reflected in countless strikes, mass absenteeism, and worse labour relations than in the group's mainland plants. The hope must be that these are merely temporary troubles.

As in Sicily, the authorities in Sardinia favour the cooperative approach, whether in fish farms in the many coastal lagoons and freshwater reservoirs, in the 70 to 80 brands of quality wine-exports of which to France have found less than the Sicilian or cattle or pig raising.

In the case of the last of these, island suspicion has been aroused by the Rome Government's approval of a project for a 25,000-sq-ft farm near Bosa, in the south-west. There are fears of serious pollution arising. "It will be a monstrous settlement," Signor Catta said, "which we hope will not come off."

Lack of water is a big obstacle to agriculture in an island where drought may last for four or five months in the year. The assessors estimate that needs will rise greatly in the next 20 years, and plans have therefore been drawn up for the expenditure of large sums

## PALERMO MARKET MAFIA CONTAINED

Gaetano Galatolo—known as Tani Alatu—was killed one spring morning in 1965 at the gates of the Palermo fruit and vegetable market. Two sudden, loud blasts heralded the opening of the new market in Montepellegrino Street, where the Palermo town hall had recently transferred the whole trade of agricultural produce from the old premises in Guglielmo II Buono Street, in the Zisa quarter.

In June that same year Salvatore Landro, one of Galatolo's most trusted men, was killed in Como, 2,000 kilometres away. The light hit him in the North did not prevent the settlement of his score.

In March 1966 Francesco Greco, a fruit and vegetable wholesaler was killed, followed three months later by his partner Luigi Paparello.

In the following months more people were killed—Antonio Caltano and Cristoforo Di Caccamo, both wholesalers, Gaetano Sacca, a trader, Angelo Galatolo, Giuseppe Noto a broker, and Girolamo Ingrassia an agent. Obviously the struggle between rival Mafia gangs was exacting its toll in blood.

The Mafia had left the countryside and moved into town. The large landholdings no longer yielded adequate returns. Food distribution in the big urban centres, large scale rebuilding after the devastation of the war and public works put out to tender provided fresh scope for action and it was sufficient to get into a position of power, not the opposition, force opponents into silence and intimidate the undecided.

And so we reached the years of the bloody and violent clash between the Greco and La Barbera, leaders of Mafia infiltration in the distributive trade, urban development and public tenders. Palermo was expanding and with it the Mafia which became more sophisticated—gaining power but changing tactics and becoming more subtle and pervasive; the rough and ready ways of the country were discarded for the veneer of respectability which was necessary to get into offices and exercise power with the cover and complexity of the political world.

During World War II the Sicilian Mafia had been invited to play a delicate political role at the time of the Allied landing on the island. This had given the Mafia bosses a kind of official standing and respectability which they were able to exploit with great skill to their advantage, penetrating the centres of political decision making and administration in Sicily and there establishing close and lasting links.

The war between Mafia factions reached a peak in the Summer of 1963. The previous year the Sicilian Regional Assembly had voted unanimously to ask for a parliamentary enquiry into the Mafia and then, in 1963, first the Senate and then the Chamber of Deputies in Rome unanimously decided to set up a Parliamentary Commission of Enquiry to investigate the problem of the Mafia in Sicily.

The Mafia was becoming a problem of national concern. The results gathered to date by the Commission of Enquiry in more than 2,000 dossiers with some spine chilling material—pages and pages outlining guilt and responsibilities, giving account of violence and outrageous abuse of power. One of these stories, the one explored in most depth, concerns the Palermo General Market. This is what is known about the move of the fruit and vegetable market to the new premises in Montepellegrino Street:

"Allocation of stands with all that implies in terms of favouritism and disparity in the facilities was left entirely to the market agents, without any intervention by the managing body, i.e. the Palermo Town Hall. In other words this crucial responsibility was placed in the hands of those directly involved and the strongest prevailed, these were of course the Mafia factions cooperating in the Palermo General Market."

After the years of bloodshed gunfire was no longer heard in the market. One of the last killings was that of Emanuele Landro, market agent and owner of a supermarket in a new residential area of town.

The market Mafia no longer killed. It did not need to. Inside the market all was quiet in the years from 1963 to 1966. Free competition did not exist. Favoured by the Palermo Town Hall with the allocation of the best stands, the strongest and most dangerous Mafia gained total control of the wholesale trade. They dictated the price of goods, even deciding the quantities of foodstuff for sale.

The central and largest hall of the market—originally assigned to the growers and co-operatives—was illegally occupied by these same Mafia wholesalers who also had the stands opposite the hall, so that on both sides of the main market thoroughfare the buyers always found the same sellers who dictated prices and gave credit only in exchange for their silence and collusion. After the first denunciations to the controlling authorities, the Anti-Mafia Commission and public opinion, the President of the Chamber of Commerce collected a mass of documentary evidence on the explosive situation in the market and as long ago as 1967 started the courageous task of routing the mafia.

But his endeavours were opposed by the very Town Hall officials and Market Committees that by law should have been supervising the market. This becomes a scandal of national proportions when the newspaper and television divulged the results of the investigation carried out by the Palermo Chamber of Commerce and the results to the life of Angelo, the Chamber's President. This investigation revealed that within the market everything was illegal: the concessions, the market passed, methods of sales and weighing, vehicle security services, also weights and measures control did not exist, packing was not checked and health inspection was not carried out. At this point—and we are talking about 1970—running of the market was removed from the local authority and assigned to a Government Project. Under this new form of management a start was made in the restoration of legality, with the collaboration of the Chamber of Commerce and the Police Force. Proper control of who goes in and out was re-established at the gates, the weight of goods was checked and standards of packing and quality control were gradually brought into operation; similarly basic health standards were guaranteed and the ground was prepared for more trading.

But even more sinister facts had come to light: known Mafia struck from the wholesalers register by the Chamber of Commerce carried on their business undisturbed through front men and with the full approval of the Town Hall administration that had been running the market. Additionally, an area of approximately 50,000 square feet, which the Town Hall had acquired through compulsory purchase for market expansion to cope with the growing needs of a large town such as Palermo, was allowed to fall into the hands of illegal occupants who carried on all kinds of activities.

This land was now repossessed and made available to the market, the culpable behaviour of the local authority was denounced and almost all the market wholesalers were indicted thereby changing the balance that had been based on strong arm methods and intimidation by a law.

Today the market has not just one but several thoroughfares, the wholesalers do large scale business but no longer do so based on the stifling of competition and frightened silence of the buyers but needs to be founded on the professional skills of the traders who must be able to operate within an economically open and healthy framework, under the stewardship of an authority which is finally looking after the consumers' interests.

For too many years the jostling and scheming of rival Mafia factions have kept consumer prices at a high level unnecessarily adding to the burden of the family budget.

The new situation has certainly not wiped out the Mafia from the market, nor completely destroyed a mentality with ancient and complex traditions which are still deeply ingrained in many Sicilians. But what the civil and progressive intervention of the Chamber of Commerce has achieved is the restoration of morality and fair dealing in this area of business life, and it has also undoubtedly contributed to reduce, by breaking it, the excessive power of the Mafia while creating a new and healthier working climate.

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## Tourist industries get big cash boost at low cost to environment

by Patricia Clough

Sardinia have less business than a pop-aside resort such as the crucial question is they can develop tourist industries without losing their character.

Islands have come holiday trade late we almost, to learn makes made else. The realization is at least in policy-rcles, that a thick concrete hotels beautiful coast does rapid economic de-and can prove price to pay for

as we know it already outdated" to Dr Graziella del or of the Sardin- al Department for "Modern tourism sine, it consumers s set up to exploit it is finished."

the main troubles is hat view, with the means the re- horities have at al, on the private and speculators nced with mak- profit rather than future of the

reach in the two completely dif- Sicily, where in st big industries planted next to of ancient Greek accent is now on mental economic island has been into districts attempt will be monize the needs, agriculture, opment and tour-

### cial aid to elopers

onal authorities are the plan by r low-cost finan- developers avail- projects which The success of will depend on to which the can resist the financial pres- deters in the is- land. Past ex- pecially in town not encouraging. t of district plan- cided with the £160m five-year elop tourism in h will be spent els, increasing n the present to 100,000, and



Tourists waiting for the boat at Porto Rotondo, Sardinia. Below: Greek temple ruins at Agrigento, Sicily.

on improving tourist attrac- tions.

That includes restoring medieval town centres, im- proving archaeological areas and beauty spots. National or regional parks are plan- ned in the area around Mount Etna and in the Nebrodi and Madonie moun- tains on the north coast, and submarine "parks" around Ustica and Lampedusa to preserve the rich marine flora and fauna from over- enthusiastic divers.

In Sardinia on the other hand there is a definite lack of planning, but there are signs of a greater sensitivity to the hidden dangers of tourism.

When the autonomous Sardinian Regional Government came into being in 1950 there was almost no provi- sion for tourists. It built 11 hotels and two restaurants and then, when private enter- prise quickly took up the ini- tiative, limited itself largely to providing financial aid. Efforts, not always success- ful, are being made to en- courage tourist development in areas which most need it economically.

The lack of overall plan- ning has meant that some beautiful and therefore potentially valuable tourist areas have been spoiled

by the establishment of dirty industries.

As far as expansion is con- cerned Sardinia has no trou- bles: capacity has grown in 25 years from almost nothing to about 30,000 hotel beds and is increasing at a rate of about 2,500 beds a year.

"Until now we have gone along rather haphazardly, trailing behind private enterprise", Dr del Pin says. "Now we are at a stage of reflection. If we wished we could make Sardinia the biggest playground in the Mediter- ranean but we do not want to finish up like those places where mass tourism has de- stroyed all cultural and moral values."

### A way of life of its own

"Sardinia has got things other places have not, certain values, a way of life of its own. We must ask ourselves if we do not want to find some other kind of solution, set ourselves a different goal, and preserve our own values and character. After all peo- ple come here to be in Sar- dinia, not just to be in an hotel."

Sicily has acquired a cer- tain fame over the past cen- tury because of an elite which travelled there to see some of the most splendid Greek temples in the world, a great wealth of other cul- tural interest and sunny warm winters among the orange and almond groves.

In a different way and over a much shorter time this pioneering function has been performed in Sardinia by the Costa Smeralda, the Aga Khan's chic vacation and property development area.

The Costa Smeralda is regarded in Sardinia as a double-edged weapon. On the one hand the project and the "jet-set" it attracts have brought Sardinia more pub- licity and tourist prestige than the region could ever have hoped to achieve on its own. On the other, it has tended to give Sardinia the image of a millionaires' pa- radise, which may have dis- couraged ordinary people from coming.

Few realize that the Costa Smeralda is only about 50 km of a 1,850 km coast- line and that there are innumerable other equally beautiful and often quite un- discovered areas which can be visited at a fraction of Costa Smeralda prices.

Criticism has been levelled at the Costa Smeralda but it is being developed carefully by intelligent planners to preserve the beauty of its surroundings and it has the advantage, which many other enterprises have not, of hav- ing created a number of small industries.

Much less can be said for the tourist villages now popular in both islands as elsewhere in the Mediter- ranean. Obviously the answer to the modern tourist's needs for more free- dom and privacy than a tradi- tional hotel can provide, they are something of a dis- appointment to the economy of a developing area.

In many cases such vil- lages are self-contained, pro- viding sports, amusements, shops, services and tours. The visitor finds it unneces- sary to roam beyond them, and sometimes is even subtly discouraged from doing so, so that the financial benefit to the local community often consists only of a certain amount of employment dur- ing the season.

Often too, the task of catering for tourists is too much for the local farmers and much of the food has to be imported from the main- land.



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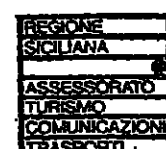
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# Antonio Gramsci: 'This century's most original Marxist thinker'

by Giuseppe Fiori

Antonio Gramsci, defined by H. Stuart Hughes as "the most intelligent and original" of the twentieth century Marxist thinkers, spent 20 years in Sardinia, 11 in Turin, two years in each of Moscow and Vienna, four in Rome and more than 10 in fascist prisons. His periods in Sardinia and in Turin strongly influenced his philosophy.

It was in the Piedmontese industrial metropolis that Gramsci discovered the predominant role of the working class in the liberation of the Italian proletariat. And it was after his experiences in the most backward region of Italy that he became aware of the need for a stable alliance between the workers of the North and the masses of the South.

There is a letter to Giulia, his wife, in which Gramsci sketches a brief portrait of himself as a young man: "What has saved me from turning completely into a stuffed shirt?" he asked. "The instinct of rebellion which,

when I was a child, was directed at the rich because I who had got top marks in all subjects at elementary school, was not able to study like the butcher's son, the chemist's son and the haberdasher's son", he replied.

"It extended to include all the rich who oppressed the Sardinian peasants", Gramsci's letter goes on, "and I thought then that I had to fight for the national independence of the island. 'Throw the continentals into the sea'—How many times I repeated those words. Then I got to know the working classes of an industrial city and I realized what Marx, whom I had read earlier out of sheer curiosity, really meant."

Similar evidence of the mood of Gramsci shortly after his arrival in Turin in 1911, at 20, to study at the university, is given by Tullio Togliatti, another Sardinian ex-grammar school boy who later led the Italian Communist Party.

Togliatti recalled "at that time, in the first years of

Gramsci's youth, he felt deeply the resentment of all Sardinians for the wrongs done to the island and this became for him also a feeling of resentment towards the continental Italians and continental Italy.

"He thought then that Sardinia must redeem itself by struggling against the continent and continentals for its own freedom, its own welfare and progress. Antonio Gramsci was already a rebel: at the same time his thoughts were turning towards socialism", Togliatti said.

Togliatti added: "When Antonio Gramsci came from Sardinia he was already a socialist. Perhaps his socialism was based more on the Sardinian instinct of rebellion and the humanitarianism of a young provincial intellectual than on complete system of thought. This was provided by Turin, the University of Turin and the Turin working class."

Gramsci's picture of himself and the evidence of his fellow student and politician

establish the salient features of that stage in the intellectual development of Antonio Gramsci. The instinct of rebellion initially takes the form of Sardinist protest—already interwoven with socialist tendencies. What are the roots of the Sardinist protest movement?

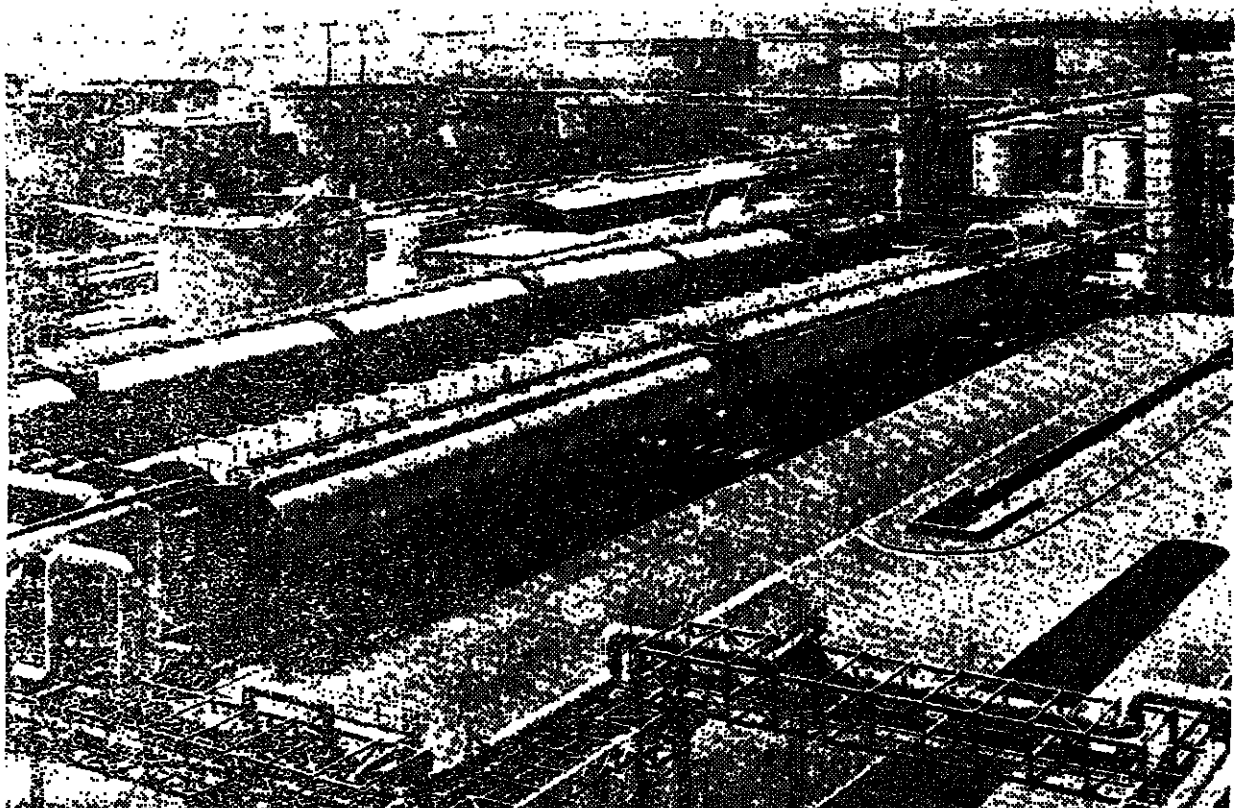
When Francesco, Antonio Gramsci's father, arrived in Ghilarza, in the centre of the island, in 1881 to take up his job as manager of the register office, Sardinia was celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the unity of Italy.

There was little reason to celebrate: almost nothing had changed since 1861. In June of that year Giuseppe Mazzini, one of the founders of the Italian nation, wrote: "Sardinia, a land of 1,560 square leagues, capable of sustaining— and in Roman times perhaps populated by— two million people, now has 600,000 inhabitants. Scarcely a quarter of its cultivable area is farmed. Everywhere you meet rivers



Signor Enrico Berlinguer, secretary of the Italian Communist Party, who has been inspired by the ideas of Antonio Gramsci.

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## Weapon against the system

by Patricia Clough

Leonardo Sciascia is the person who has shown the world what it is like to be Sicilian. His novels and short stories are like phials into which is distilled the essence of Sicilian life.

Generally speaking, Sicilian life, like Sicilian wines, can only be fully savoured on the spot. Even from across the narrow Strait of Messina it begins to look strange and picturesque. Some Sicilian attitudes have even become a national joke. Sciascia's greatness lies in his ability to present the local human drama in terms which any other human being can understand.

Behind his stories is the tragedy of a people who have always been oppressed; the absence of a state which represents and imposes justice; the domination, instead, of a power system in which the Mafia, politics and, not infrequently, the church are inseparably linked.

There is the sudden and silent violence never far from the apparently tranquil surface, the cynical oppression of the weak by the strong, the near impossibility of the search for truth, and, again and again, the futility of any effort to bear the Mafia-political system.

Despite that background his stories are always vivid and enterprising, often amusing, sometimes gripping, and deceptively simple.

One of Sciascia's favourite forms is the detective novel, but with a difference. The interrogations and investigations into the crimes are at the same time interrogations and investigations into the hidden workings of Sicilian life. But whereas in traditional detective stories identification of the murderer automatically means his punishment, in Sciascia's Sicily, where there is no natural justice, the criminals—invariably the Mafia—go unpunished and uncensored, while the investigator himself is often killed or defeated.

Sciascia's language, unlike that of many contemporaries, is austere and direct. It often reflects the rhythm and cadence of Sicilian speech but never falls into dialect or Sicilian rhetoric. There is no comment or protest, pity or indignation. The facts speak for themselves. The result is a series of books which are at the same time highly



'My job is writing. I can be more useful, socially and politically, writing...'

popular and some of the best contemporary Italian literature.

For Sciascia, his typewriter is a weapon. His writing is a means of fighting the system, the oppression and injustice. It is significant that one of his best known novels, *Il Gattopardo* (Mafia Vendetta), which has also been made into a film, was an early fiction work on the Mafia.

A member of a humble family which over the past two generations has pulled itself up by its bootstraps out of the inhuman conditions in the Sicilian sulphur mines to the more privileged status of office clerk, Sciascia has felt intensely the suffering and poverty of the ordinary people.

Later, when yet another rung up the social ladder, he stood as a teacher before classes of hungry, ragged urchins. He was tormented by his position as representative of an unjust state paid to teach them things that were irrelevant to them.

It was a sense of relief that he escaped from reaching to a bureaucratic job in the educational offices and to his more congenial battleground of literature.

Nevertheless, Sciascia recently found it necessary to leave his desk and take more direct action. With Sicilian painter Renato Guttuso, a close friend, Via-

cenzo Tusa, the local superintendent of antiquities, and a group of other intellectuals, he stood as independent communist candidate for the Palermo City Council in last June's elections.

Their move was backed by an appeal by 200 Sicilian professional people, intellectuals and other personalities calling for an end to corruption and misrule in Palermo and votes for the communists.

He was rewarded with 14,525 preferential votes, second only to the local Communist Party leader, a sign of his personal popularity and perhaps also the desire of many to vote for a clean administration without voting Communist.

Sciascia makes it clear, however, that his four-year term as Palermo city councillor will be an isolated experience. "My job is writing. I think I can be more useful, socially and politically, writing a book than being city councillor."

His candidature, he said, was "a gesture, because I believe that nowadays a certain type of writer and intellectual has the duty to warn people in moments of danger."

"To me it seems that this is a really dangerous moment in Italy, therefore I felt it my duty to intervene in the most direct way."

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## GENERAL FRANCO

General Franco is greeted neither with gloating nor with excess. When a head of state the age of 82 after 39 years of power behind him, even his relations must be sorrow mixed with respect for a long and successful career. Even his bitterest must acknowledge his achievements. Before entering a distinguished career and became the youngest general. He military insurrection and, in spite of serious setbacks, was able to lead a successful process of the very elements of the camp, and preserving dependence in spite of aid which he received. His powers. With great skill he resisted the war in Spain to join the Axis. He enabled his country to bind its war while the rest of the world was in the process of

## ORDINARY EFFORTS TO PROLONG LIFE

postponement of Franco's death by a major operation and the whole paraphernalia of modern technology has provoked much of his medical attention. They are not old men to die peacefully. They are men who have repeated their painful prolonging his sufferings of his family? Some have ignored the fact that the most important influences on a man's life are his attitudes to a man's own response to his situation. General was determined to fight for his doctors had to believe that the heavily against his role in all important circumstances and the

## ST WE GOT ONE DECISION RIGHT

ment's decision to plans for Maplin airfield by the latest document on airport London, published. The latest growth for air passenger for the next five years; airports will be more to handle traffic, the relatively modest in terminal facilities already planned will the highest realistic there is, therefore, no into any major new schemes, either at some site or at existing Heathrow. The ssion, which has cut airlines' growth, has time to decide how value the right to fly airport which is constituted and which if this assessment of money which must be account, as the report cognizes, though the main public spending must be a powerful to any tendency to

## students

Wilfrid Grenville-Grey, 2, Bedford Square, London, is paying for Overseas Aid. (November 10) when in drawing public the issues, is seriously a satisfactory and analysis and guide to aid matter. He says that the debate about the principle of aid (between over- and United Kingdom) but about its desirability. On the contrary, the aid is indeed still an issue of aid. The only open country receiving students which has a No other EEC country has a fee to overseas on its student nationals. A small, if any, fees. The aid is that other EEC continue to see the advantage in having a due (10 per cent) of their institutions inhabited by students on equal terms as students. It is to pay the economic elected students should the new Paid Education Scheme pay for the secular concern, however, a majority of the total overseas students who are a large and most proportion of whom are for developing countries. Increases in tuition fees

After the war he withstood the diplomatic isolation imposed on him by the victorious Allies, first exploiting it to increase his popularity within Spain and then by dint of further patient diplomacy escaping from it into international acceptability. But more important and more remarkable in the eyes of his countrymen was the long period of civil peace and political stability which he imposed—a period without precedent in Spain since the eighteenth century. Most important of all, this peace and stability, combined with an ultra-liberal economic policy, enabled Spain to benefit in full measure from the spectacular growth which marked world trade in general and the West European economy in particular during the fifties and sixties. The Spanish economy at last "took off" and the living standards of many ordinary Spanish families were raised almost out of recognition.

Moral judgments, however, should not be excluded from politics. Alarming as was the condition of the Spanish Republic in July 1936, the three years of civil war that followed involved far more widespread suffering, on both sides and among would-be neutrals. Though personally by no means bloodthirsty, General Franco can hardly escape a large share of responsibility for that suffering. Nor will many of his countrymen forgive him for maintaining an essentially authoritarian regime long

patient with a strong will to live very often recovers from an operation that would otherwise have had little chance of success: it would be wrong for doctors to deny him that chance. But recent medical advances have made it possible to prolong the process of dying almost indefinitely and as a result doctors have been forced to re-examine their ethical obligations. Their first responsibility remains the traditional duty to the patient. Treatment that simply postpones death cannot be justified solely on the ground that it is technically feasible and it should not be undertaken without taking the wishes of the patient (and usually his family) into account.

We do not in this case know the wishes of the patient, but we do know the attitude of his family. They were reported to be critical of the excessive efforts

after his republican enemies had given up any idea of a violent *revanche*, indeed long after a new generation had grown up to which the issues of the civil war seemed fundamentally irrelevant. There are now two such generations of post-civil-war adults in Spain: people better housed, better clothed, better fed, better educated, and far more aware of the outside world than were most of General Franco's own contemporaries. For these various benefits many of them may feel a degree of gratitude to General Franco himself, but most of them are also keenly aware that his regime was an anachronism and are offended by the brutality and clumsiness with which it reacted to recent challenges to its authority. They feel politically mature enough to shoulder their responsibilities as citizens of a democratic state, and feel the need for a more modern social system to cope with their dynamic but hitherto largely unregulated and now faltering economy. They might have benefited from a gradual apprenticeship in democratic politics, but this, alas, is just what General Franco denied them. As his final statement shows, he believed that his enemies were also enemies of Spain. This was not true. Some had the best interests of the country at heart. He did not listen to them. His death is therefore likely to release many pent-up forces whose violence will be difficult to control.

made by the doctors to keep him alive. Three emergency operations were performed on him within the space of eleven days, the third one at least without previous consultation with his wife and daughter. Unless this was done in response to a specific request from General Franco it was surely deploying the techniques of modern medicine beyond the point of wisdom or humanity.

His age, the length of his illness and the list of diseases from which he was known to be suffering made his eventual recovery hardly even a remote possibility. In such a case seeking officially to keep alive without very good cause indeed. That applies as much to a head of state, lying on his death bed in the full glare of international publicity, as it does to any other human being.

The documents' authors have recognized that it is unrealistic to even begin to discuss air travel as if it were an unmitigated blessing for all. The environmental problem is connected with another question, that of the extent to which air traffic can be diverted to regional centres away from London. On this, which was one of the arguments used against Maplin, prospects look distinctly unpromising. Most travellers who currently use London airports live in the south-east and would not take kindly to being asked to go to the Midlands in order to fly to Paris. The report shows that decisions on matters such as where to build airports and how many of them to have are genuinely difficult to get right, because we cannot hope to have predictions which are accurate for far enough ahead. This problem applies as much to major capital projects with a long delay between inception and completion. It is some comfort at least that in the case of Maplin, the final decision seems to have been the right one, though some of the arguments used to justify it were wrong.

by your political correspondent, Mr. George Clark, on November 17.

It is true that Edward D. Cann's speech at Taunton on the eve of the Common Market referendum dismayed many of his parliamentary colleagues, including myself, but he expressed his regret, which was expressed by the committee, in his customary generosity. He is unlikely to make the same kind of mistake again.

There are, moreover, strong positive reasons for his re-election:

(1) In the view of the large majority of the members of the executive, who work with him more closely than anyone else, he is a superbly good chairman. Indeed, I consider him outstandingly the best chairman of the executive and of the main committees during my 25 years in the House of Commons.

(2) Following the election for the party leadership earlier this year, which he handled so responsibly, it would be a pity to disrupt and divide the party (when there is now complete unity behind Margaret Thatcher) by an election for the chairmanship which could not improve the basic leadership and might prove prejudicial to its effectiveness.

(3) There is much to be said for the continuity and experience which would not, at any rate at first, be available under a new chairman unless he came from within the present executive, on which there is no one who would wish to challenge Edward D. Cann.

Yours faithfully,  
NIGEL FISHER,  
House of Commons,  
November 17.

## The 1922 Committee

From Sir Nigel Fisher, Conservative MP for Kingston upon Thames, Surrey.  
Sir, As a member of the Executive of the 1922 Committee, may I be allowed to comment on the article

## Dismissal of Mr Whitlam

From Sir Alexander Downer  
Sir, Professor Howard's attack on your leader following Mr Whitlam's dismissal should not pass unchallenged. I can assure you, Sir, that contrary to what he avers large numbers of my fellow Australians, although surprised, acclaimed Sir John Kerr's dramatic action with reasoning similar to your own.

Where Professor Howard (November 18) has erred is in doing many members of the Australian Labour Party who think like him, is in ignoring the established constitutional doctrine of the Sovereign in Parliament. In the past 40 years there has been an increasing tendency, both in Britain and Australia, amongst some politicians of all political parties to encroach on the royal prerogatives, and to assume the mere because these latent powers have not been used they have ceased to exist.

Sir John Kerr is not, as Professor Howard states, a "merely titular non-elected head of State". The Queen is our head of State; the Governor-General is her representative. So long as the Constitution remains unaltered in this respect, he is an indispensable element in the legislative and administrative process. Any of my Cabinet colleagues in Sir Robert Menzies' administration can testify to the active part played, on occasion, at executive council meetings by strong-minded Governors-General such as Field Marshal Slim and Lord De L'Isle.

What Sir John Kerr has done is to discharge the functions entrusted to him, as the Queen's representative, by the Australian Constitution, Section 61: "The executive power of the Commonwealth is vested in the Queen and is exercisable by the Governor-General as the Queen's representative." The Governor-General, in the exercise of this power, is not bound by the advice of Ministers. The Governor-General, in the exercise of this power, is not bound by the advice of Ministers. The Governor-General, in the exercise of this power, is not bound by the advice of Ministers.

their print figures ever since October 15, had caused the loss of thousands of copies of both papers, damaging inconvenience and disruption to our wholesale and retail distributors and approximately 200,000 a week in extra costs. And all this against the Daily Express engineers who in defiance of the written findings of three Joint NEA/AUEW Disputes Committees on which the engineers had been represented by their own divisional and branch officers, that there should be no hostile action by either side.

On the night of Tuesday, November 11, within 30 minutes of the adjournment of the third Disputes Committee, Daily Express engineers, as has been admitted by the Federation of the Press, to the full Council of the NEA returned to this office and rendered the linotype machines inoperative thereby halting production of the Daily Express. Nearly two hours later the FOC was handed a letter which gave the engineers 13 hours to restore normal working and told that in the event of their failure to do so the management would with regret regard his members as being in breach of their contract. During the intervening period further sabotage took place.

I readily accept that members of the AUEW are as Mr Osborne writes, intelligent men. That is why I believe it to be important that they know the factors that led up to the dispute. Yours faithfully,  
JOCELYN STEVENS,  
Beaverbrook Newspapers Ltd,  
121 Fleet Street, EC4,  
November 20.

## London Symphony Orchestra

From Mr John Boyden  
Sir, Today's issue of The Guardian (November 19) contains an article on the London Symphony Orchestra. It was the first of a number of articles involving the internal affairs of our orchestra. The first page has a headline "Another row at the LSO". Indeed, there was no row until The Guardian published its feature, which was a case of newspaper causing trouble on one page and reporting the anticipated chaos on another.

As the Managing Director of the London Symphony Orchestra, I want clearly to understand that I have the greatest possible interest in the welfare of its members and the future of the organization of which I have the honour and privilege to be a part. I have absolutely no contempt for orchestral musicians; indeed, my father was one such for many years, and I have some considerable insight into their desires and problems. The London Symphony Orchestra has a hundred classical records over the past 10 years. However, it is often the case that lively groups of people have difficulties which must be debated, but not necessarily in public.

The orchestra's very gruelling tour of Japan and Korea was nevertheless highly successful in that we played before capacity audiences at every concert. Miss Anna Motson was travelling privately with the orchestra on the understanding that she was writing a feature article for The Sunday Times colour magazine. As I had been unable to spare any time previously, during our

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

is an old friend and contemporary of Mr Whitlam; he was the Prime Minister's sole nominee last year for the Governor-Generalship; in his earlier years he had been a member of the Labor Party. In these circumstances would have sought refuge in evasion, or the sort of casuistry Professor Howard employs. Irrespective of friendship and past associations, aware of the merits of the controversy, the Governor-General could have decided the issues. In this he exercised his proper constitutional authority, many would say his duty, as one of the tripartite elements in government.

May I make two other points perhaps unknown to some of your readers? Sir John Kerr is himself a lawyer of high repute. His reputation at the Sydney Bar, his period as Chief Justice of New South Wales, enhance the validity of his difficult decision. And of course he acted correctly in consulting the Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. There is probably no greater living authority on the Australian Constitution than Sir Garfield Barwick. His experience at the Bar in leading constitutional cases, later as Federal Attorney-General, and since 1964 as Chief Justice, give him a status far exceeding that of any academic lawyer. His advice to the Governor-General, which you publish today (November 19), should be carefully weighed by all who feel disposed to criticize.

My other point is this. The Australian Labor Party, ever since Sir Philip Game's dismissal of Mr Lang in 1932, has disputed the prerogative of the Queen's representative—whether he be a State Governor (as was Game) or Governor-General, to dismiss a Minister. For more than 40 years an influential section of the Labor Party has sought to diminish the authority of the Governor-General; some would like to abolish the post altogether, just as they would the Senate.

I believe they will not succeed in either of these objectives on account of the far-reaching constitutional alterations involved—alterations which can be made only by a majority of the States and a majority of the total electorate voting. Meanwhile, whatever the result of the elections on December 13, all who support our present form of democratic government should be grateful that the Queen in Australia is represented by a man with guts. Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER DOWNER,  
Oare House,  
Oare, Wiltshire.

their print figures ever since October 15, had caused the loss of thousands of copies of both papers, damaging inconvenience and disruption to our wholesale and retail distributors and approximately 200,000 a week in extra costs. And all this against the Daily Express engineers who in defiance of the written findings of three Joint NEA/AUEW Disputes Committees on which the engineers had been represented by their own divisional and branch officers, that there should be no hostile action by either side.

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## Civil Service pay and pensions

From Mr A. G. Tinney  
Sir, If Civil Service rates of pay have been so good in the past how does one account for the fact that there has been a shortfall of suitable candidates in all direct entry grades for a good many years? Those in contact with recruitment know that, until recently, all that could be offered as attractive propositions for a career were a reasonable salary with a long incremental scale, good opportunities for promotion for the successful, security and a half pay pension if one could "sway the figures" for forty years. Quoting the starting salary to a candidate often caused sarcastic mirth and the mention of "security" would be thrown back into one's face as a "joke". Pensions just seemed to be too far away to attract anyone.

In fact, was it not this general atmosphere, plus the many resignations of young civil servants, which brought about the new pension scheme of 1973 and which for the first time allowed for the transfer of pension credits? Has not the increase in unemployment affected the attitudes to Civil Service pay and conditions and is not so much of the recent comment more "sour grapes"? Yours faithfully,  
A. G. TINNEY,  
13 Volunteer Road,  
Tusale, Berkshire,  
November 11.

From Mr M. Hennessey  
Sir, Mr Rupert Evans (November 15) tells us of the educational allowances paid to diplomats and finds the figures "startling". Although he admits that the allowances are justified in principle, the balance of his letter puts this matter into the context of the present continuous onslaught on the Civil Service. Is there not a failure of logic here? If these allowances are justified—and they are matched by private industry—then the only complaint arising from the figures, if any, must be against the scale of fees charged by the schools or the high rates of taxation, or both. Certainly there is nothing in these facts to provide any evidence of privilege for the Civil Service. Yours sincerely,  
M. HENNESSEY,  
13 Allington Drive,  
Tunbridge Wells,  
November 17.

From Mr P. T. Cox  
Sir, I would like to assure Mr Rupert Evans (letter, November 15) that he is not alone in his naivety. It seems to me that index-linked emoluments must increase inflation.

## Precautions against bombs

From Mrs Peta Fordham  
Sir, I may, I think, claim some knowledge of criminal enterprise. For three weeks I have been certain that Walton's beautiful restaurant would be bombed, because its right-angled, unprotected windows were situated where there were three possible getaway routes. Bombers, like smash-and-grab raiders, must have easy escape routes adjacent; and streets which are relatively deserted at the planned time: every one of the recent restaurant attacks has been made in such situations.

It should now be possible to identify especially vulnerable targets where, in addition to such obvious precautions as thick, heavy curtains, secured top and bottom behind strengthened glass (if steel lattice cannot be installed) some responsible person should patrol outside. As long as people are about, the possibility of identification increases any bomber's risk, and just as a burglar can be deterred by making his job more difficult and more time-consuming, so can a potential bomber.

Additionally, it would not be a bad idea for any garage to have a heavy brick which could shatter the windscreen or window of a car, thus assisting recognition, before any change of car could be made, especially as such cars are stolen and there is no likelihood of any buy-back. May I also suggest a more stringent enforcement of the by-laws(?) which prohibit dumping of rubbish in boxes and plastic bags in front of premises? It is impossible to keep these lethal possibilities under scrutiny. I am, Sir, Yours faithfully,  
PETA FORDHAM,  
4 Paper Buildings,  
Temple, EC4,  
November 13.

## Dr Herrema's return

From the Rev Anthony E. F. Trotman  
Sir, Was it not the great St Patrick himself who out of love for his captives returned to the land of his captivity? Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY E. F. TROTMAN,  
Chilmark Rectory,  
Salisbury,  
Wiltshire,  
November 19.

## Future of the Old Vic

From Mr Alfred Francis  
Sir, In his article about that splendid actor, Timothy West, and Toby Robertson's equally splendid Prospect Company, Mr Sheridan Morley says that the future of the London Old Vic is "still shrouded in a mixture of secrecy and doubt". There may be some doubt about the outlook for the Old Vic, but there is no secrecy. The Arts Council were compelled by the circumstances of the day to announce that no money could be found for the Waterloo Road when the National Theatre Company moves next year to the South Bank. Meanwhile, successive plans for the Old Vic had to be abandoned for lack of funds. But the governors are determined that this great national institution shall not be moth-balled, and a lot of people are working very hard to save the situation. Prospective patrons please note. Yours faithfully,  
ALFRED FRANCIS,  
Garlick Wood, WC1,  
November 19.

From Mr J. A. Hilton  
Sir, I am the Dean of Worcester's cat. Pray tell me, Sir, whose dog is that? I beg to remain, Sir, Your humble and obedient servant,  
J. A. HILTON,  
The Griffin Hotel,  
Standishgate,  
Wigan,  
Lancashire.

The figures he gives for our diploma apply to so few of their total effect on national inflation is negligible, however "unfair" they may seem. Vastly more important are the index-linked wages, salaries and pensions paid to hundreds of thousands at lower levels, though well above the poverty line. I have yet to learn that inflation is caused by anything other than the amount of money available to a large majority of us. High cost of imported goods, shortages of commodities or excessive profits may determine when inflation strikes but it can strike only if a sufficient proportion of us have enough cash (or credit) to buy the things. Minorities with high or low incomes hardly affect general inflation. Perhaps Mr Healey could defeat inflation at a stroke if he could make threshold increments and all automatic cost of living indexed remuneration of employees. Until our inflation is brought to a halt he could guide increments according to changing circumstances by such controls as the 16 limit and variants of it. Yours faithfully,  
P. T. COX,  
The Bridge House,  
Marden,  
Tonbridge, Kent,  
November 16.

From Mr Henry Lewis  
Sir, Mr Rupert Evans' letter (November 15) omits mention of, perhaps, the most significant factor. In addition to generous pay and allowances our Obedient Servants also possess indestructible financial security. The winning of their benefits is unknown to the self-employed. Until a few years ago public servants had a modest income but their compensation lay in a secure future. Now they have both high income and security. Yours faithfully,  
HENRY LEWIS,  
2 Charleville Mansions,  
Charleville Road, W14,  
November 16.

From Mr H. C. L. Fassnidge  
Sir, Given that entry into the Diplomatic Service and other branches of government is by open competition there is nothing to prevent Mr Evans (November 15) or anyone else from taking advantage of any benefits if they wish, and have got what it takes. Yours faithfully,  
H. C. L. FASSNIDGE,  
Morgate Lodge, 10, St Margaret's Hill, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.  
November 16.

## Defence counsel's duty

From Mr Christopher Rose, QC  
Sir, Mr N. T. Cox's letter you published on November 13, seems to have overlooked the possibility that counsel's questions, to which he takes exception when directed to discrediting police officers, may also have played some part in showing to be a liar the prosecution witness on whom Mr Cox's jury were not prepared to rely.

Witnesses (whether for the prosecution or the defence) are not usually prone to confess their own perjury, malpractice or incompetence. Such admissions (if any) are usually exposed by cross-examination. Cross-examination, to be effective, must be fearless as well as firm. Counsel (who presents but does not invent his client's case) is under a duty to probe the reliability of any witness being a matter not of assumption but of assessment from the quality of his answers. The question is, or should be, diverted from the proper pursuit of that duty by signs or sounds of displeasure from the Bench, the taxing office or the jury box. Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER ROSE,  
5 Temple Court,  
Temple, EC4.

## Angels on a pin

From Mr J. M. Ross  
Sir, No doubt Thomas Aquinas did discuss some odd questions (put to him by his contemporaries), but not, it would seem, the notorious question about angels dancing on the point of a needle. This is not among the questions culled from Aquinas and Suarez in the chapter of Martinus Scriblerus referred to by Isaac D'Israeli, and appears to have been an invention of D'Israeli himself. Yours faithfully,  
J. M. ROSS,  
64 Wildwood Road, NW11.

## Cats and dogs

From Mr Allan W. Rather  
Sir, If Mr Levin had been living 150 years ago, he would surely have shared the fate of every body, namely, to die at Lady Holland's. There he would have met her "huge cat, which is never permitted to be out of her sight, and to whose vagaries she demands unqualified submission from all her visitors". According to Creevey, Lord Brougham could only keep him or her at arm's length by snuffing. "Rogers, it seems, has already sustained a considerable injury in a personal affair with this animal" while "Luttrell has sent in a formal resignation of all further visits till this odious new favourite is dismissed from the Cabinet." Creevey to Miss Ord 23.12.1822. Yours faithfully,  
ALLAN W. RATHER,  
Milton Cottage,  
Vale of Cotta, N.W.3.

From Mr J. A. Hilton  
Sir, I am the Dean of Worcester's cat. Pray tell me, Sir, whose dog is that? I beg to remain, Sir, Your humble and obedient servant,  
J. A. HILTON,  
The Griffin Hotel,  
Standishgate,  
Wigan,  
Lancashire.







TUARY

## GENERAL FRANCO

## A dictator who gave Spain a period of law and order

Francisco Franco, who ruled Spain for 36 years, died yesterday.

His greatest achievement was to have secured a long period of political stability, the country had not known since the early 19th century. This was achieved by his economic advance of the country, which was rescued from its former backwardness. By financial and administrative reforms, he had created a modern working class, and by the agricultural reforms, he had created a modern agricultural sector. Economically, he had created a modern industrial sector, and by the agricultural reforms, he had created a modern agricultural sector. Economically, he had created a modern industrial sector, and by the agricultural reforms, he had created a modern agricultural sector.

Great bravery and a charmed life

Born on December 4, 1892, at El Ferrol, in Galicia, he was the second son of a naval paymaster. He was educated at the Naval Academy in Ferrol, and then at the Infantry Academy in Toledo. He volunteered for service in North Africa, where he was wounded. He then served in the Rif, where he was again wounded. He then served in the Rif, where he was again wounded. He then served in the Rif, where he was again wounded.

war, directing operations outside Barcelona in 1939; at peace, fishing his favourite waters in 1967—and with his nominated successor, Prince Juan Carlos, last year.

The support of the Falange, the Spanish fascist movement, one million strong, was vital. But the Falange with its anti-religious and radical social doctrine was bound to be at odds with the monarchists at Burgos and with the popular forces from northern Spain with their own militia.

Aware that the Germans were actively encouraging the Falange, Franco forced a marriage between the Falange and the traditionalist popular forces, not without drastic treatment of recalcitrant leaders from both sides. They were amalgamated into the National Movement which was to become, after the civil war, the only legitimate political party in Spain. The future of Spanish fascism was therefore to become only one of the several forces, at times far the most troublesome, which were allowed to exert pressure on a monarchist ruler who remained fundamentally ultra-conservative and nationalist, listened, when expedient, to more liberal voices.

Francisco's absolute mastery of the nationalist movement, and particularly of the fascists, stood him in good stead in 1940. His decision not to honour his debt to the Dictators and keep Spain out of the Second World War was as Winston Churchill acknowledged, in 1944, of immense importance to Britain and to ultimate allied victory. Like de Gaulle, Franco foresaw that Hitler had not won after the Battle of France. The Franco-Hitler debate was not ended by the dramatic interview at Hendaye in 1940, which had infuriated Hitler. Franco's decision was not based on a desire to keep Spain neutral, but on a desire to keep Spain out of the war.

After a four-year spell of garrison duty at home he returned to Morocco as second-in-command of the Foreign Legion, and in 1923 was appointed to its command. Under him the Legion played a leading part in the final operations against Abd el Krim, the Rif leader. During the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera he became director of the Military Academy at Saragosa, but with the advent of the Republic he was dismissed. He then founded the Falange, and Franco found himself posted to the Balearic Islands, out of harm's way. In 1934 the Republic called him to suppress a revolt by the Moroccan miners, who ruthlessly overpowered him. He then filled the post of Chief of General Staff.

By 1936 internal conditions in Spain had seriously deteriorated and before once more being sent out to the Canary Islands, Franco had succeeded in laying his plans for the subsequent revolt by making arrangements to keep in command those divisions which he felt could be relied on for his purpose. Virtually a prisoner in Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Franco managed to obtain permission from the Government to attend the funeral of a comrade in Las Palmas. Here word reached him that the

murder of Calvo Sotelo, a leading Monarchist, had precipitated the revolt and, as arranged, he immediately took command of the rebel forces in North Africa. From there he invaded the Spanish mainland with the help of Italian transport aircraft. His army, largely composed of Moroccan troops, began the slow conquest through Extremadura, Salamanca and Burgos that was to end in victory in Madrid and Barcelona three years later. Colonel Riquelme y Thoma, in charge of the Condor Legion, considered Franco a sound but old-fashioned commander; Mussolini, despite the conspiracy failures, regarded him as a student of Liddell Hart, and Fuller and his own staff, whom he had weaned from tactics used in the Moroccan wars, considered him over-daring. Franco did not himself command in the field though he frequently visited the battle fronts and caused anxiety by exposing himself to risks. His overall strategic plan was sound though inevitably cautious; the army was not equipped with transport for motorized infantry and not capable therefore of dynamic tactical movements. He constantly stressed the need for training at all levels. Contrary to what was once believed, more senior officers served the Republic, or abstained altogether, than joined the nationalists.

At the end of the Second World War, Franco managed to maintain his hold on power in face of the hostile opinion of the victorious Allies. Spain was debarred from membership of the United Nations which in December, 1946, adopted a resolution recommending the withdrawal of diplomatic representatives from Spain. To this challenge Franco responded with characteristic courage. In fact, hostile attitudes abroad helped to rally Spanish opinion behind him.

By skilful planning and exceptional patience in execution, combined with an excellent sense of timing, he succeeded in restoring Spain to respectable diplomatic society. Spain became a member of the United Nations in 1955. This success had been achieved by a systematic plan to woo the United States and the Middle East and thus secure their votes in the United Nations.

As part of his plan to gain respectability in Spain, Franco determined to conclude a Concordat with the Vatican. Despite the favourable treatment accorded the Church under Franco, the Pope showed reluctance to associate himself with the Falangist regime. It was not until 1953 that Franco's patience was rewarded and the Concordat signed. Even so his relations with the Church were seldom much more than business-like. Another major aim of Franco's foreign policy was to secure a share in United States aid. In this he was greatly helped by the Cold War, particularly when his territory was raised by the conflict in Korea. The United States military need for strategic bases proved greater than its political reluctance to be associated with the Franco regime and after protracted negotiations, which lasted for nearly three years, agreement was reached on September 26, 1953, for United States aid to be given to Spain in exchange for the use of military bases. Franco had proved himself a tough bargainer and the United States found itself forced to agree that the Spanish flag should fly over all United States personnel should not wear uniform outside the bases themselves, provisions which were of psychological importance to Spain.

When General Eisenhower, then President of the United States, publicly embraced Franco while on a visit to the country, a seal of success was set on the dictator's foreign policy. Only one obstacle remained. Only

Two constraints in Spanish foreign policy were the maintenance of good relations with the Arab world, and particularly with Morocco and Algeria, and the return of Gibraltar. In the last, Franco had the support of virtually all Spaniards, including that of the Republican



government in exile in Mexico. Having received King Abdullah, the King of Libya and other Arab potentates after the war, his relations with the new revolutionary regimes in the Arab world were carefully fostered. During Morocco's struggle for independence from France, the Spanish zone was quiet, and it was returned to Sultan Mohammed V in 1956 when Morocco became independent. He ceded the enclave of Ifni to Morocco and in 1968 Equatorial Guinea came into existence as a state. However, Franco kept the Rio de Oro, with its huge phosphate deposits, sending troops and ships to reinforce the garrison in 1970 when Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania were most vigorously pressing for Spain to withdraw. Franco offered a referendum but insisted that it should be held by the Spanish authorities. In spite of tension and Arab threats to demand a withdrawal from Ceuta and Melilla, Spanish trade with Algeria and Morocco continued, though North Africa support for Spain's efforts to get Britain to "decolonize" Gibraltar became less wholehearted.

## Return of Gibraltar a vital problem

In the late fifties, Franco began to demand the return of Gibraltar with increasing vigour and the policy of blockading the Rock began. By 1970 Gibraltar was completely cut off from the mainland. In 1966 Britain had accepted the United Nations request to open negotiations with Spain. After a number of sessions in London and in Madrid, with both sides putting forward conditions, these proved useless; the British could not accept Spain's demand for a return of sovereignty as an indispensable preliminary. Thanks to Arab and Latin American votes at the United Nations there was a majority for a resolution that Britain should decolonize the Rock. This was rejected by the British so long as the Gibraltarians wished to remain under the British flag, as they had shown by a nearly unanimous vote that they did in a referendum in 1967.

Francisco conducted his Gibraltar policy without bluster, stating that Gibraltar was not worth a war but that the problem, vital to Spain, destroyed the sincerity of Anglo-Spanish good relations. He showed himself slow to adopt a friendly policy towards the Gibraltarians, which might have made

them change their attitude to Spanish sovereignty. In 1973 when Señor Lopez Rodon became Foreign Minister in the Carrero Blanco government, there were indications that the Spanish Government had realized this and was beginning to woo the Gibraltarians.

In 1959 Franco appointed a number of technocratic Ministers, some of them belonging to the Catholic lay movement Opus Dei, and their effect was to add impetus to industrial planning and to accelerate much needed reforms in the administration. Spain joined OECD in 1960. In a government reshuffle in 1969, the technocrats and their sympathizers formed a majority of the Cabinet, with Señor Lopez Bravo as Foreign Minister. The aim was to enable Spain to join the EEC and this programme, unpopular and relaxed many years ago, was welcomed by the increasingly wealthy industrial and professional classes. The benefits of growing economic strength spread downwards and affected even the impoverished rural areas of Andalusia. By 1973, Spain had become one of the relatively "affluent" nations of Europe and inflation began to be a serious problem.

During the 1960s various liberal reforms sponsored by independent members of the government, such as Señor Fernando Castiella, the former Foreign Minister, Señor Fraga Iribarne and Señor Ruiz Jimenez gave a measure of religious toleration, abolished rigorous aspects of the press censorship and relaxed many years ago publishing, film making and public entertainment. Some trials for political offences were carried out in public and with remarkable fairness to the accused. Opposition groups of monarchists, Catholics, Action and Socialists were tolerated though remaining illegal. But for every two steps forward there seemed to be one backward. From the middle 1960s, the movement of protest from regime supporters as well as opponents became more intense. The student movement in 1965 and 1966 became increasingly violent and anti-regime. Franco was more concerned by a petition signed by 1,500 persons well known in all the main professions, including an old friend, Señor Alonso Vega, calling for an independent inquiry into the torture of political prisoners. A general meeting of the Council of Lawyers passed with a huge majority a resolution which called for the abolition of the Special Tribunals and the limitation of the use of military courts to purely military offences. Shortly after this, and following disorders in the Basque provinces in 1968-69, an student riot, Franco proclaimed a "three months" state of excep-

tion" which gave the police and the army additional powers.

In December, 1970, Franco faced the gravest test for the regime. The trial by a military court of 16 Basque activists, who included two priests and two women, opened at Burgos. All the defendants were accused of seditious activities committed in 1966, and some, for whom the military prosecutor asked for the death sentence, of killing a police inspector. Spanish opinion as a whole had little sympathy for the Basque demand for autonomy and still less for the Basque revolutionary movement ETA which most of the defendants belonged. But progressive opinion was revolted by the image which this military trial gave Spain. The Vatican asked for clemency, as did other friendly governments. Even some high ranking officers were known to dislike the fact that the Army was being given a repressive role. Although Franco commuted the death sentence to life imprisonment, the regime did not bow to the storm and a number of reactionary generals, with Franco's approval, organized Falange demonstrations all over the country against the Basques, the intellectuals, the European minded technocrats in the government, and interfering foreigners.

1971 and early 1972 showed the dictator and his deputy, Admiral Carrero Blanco, resolutely supporting the foreign policy of Sr Lopez Bravo in favour of Spain entering Europe and of a less intransigent attitude to the United Kingdom over Gibraltar, but in face of social problems putting the clock back by 10 years. If, after Burgos, there was a hush for a while, opposition continued in forms which were more dangerous than protests from the progressive and professional classes. In November, 1971, the first National Assembly of Bishops and Priests, preparations for which had been made in every diocese in Spain, called for faster social and political progress and for the ending of the Concordat. This was followed by a statement by the Justice and Peace Commission of the Church, to be read in all churches, which called for a fight against the existing legal structures and to legalize political associations. The claim that prosperity was creating social harmony, failure to create a dialogue between the regime and the people could, said the commission, render civil war.

Reforms of the law governing the sindicatos or labour unions allowed strikes, before totally forbidden, provided their causes were purely economic. The strikes, more than usually violent which broke out in the mining region of the Asturias in early 1972 and in a number of industrial towns of north-western Spain all had in common a will to contest the way the state imposed wage contracts in the public and private sectors through the national trade union organization in which workers and management were grouped together. At El Ferrol, the naval base in Galicia, the birthplace of Franco, troops opened fire on strikers, killing two men and injuring many. The police made a large round-up of communist agitators. But as the Madrid newspaper *El Voz* boldly pointed out, communists had virtually nothing to do with the strikes.

During Franco's later years he was preoccupied with the question of the form of government that should control Spain after his death. He had in 1947 declared Spain to be a kingdom and the following year came to an arrangement with the exiled Pretender to the throne, Don Juan, that his son, Juan Carlos, should be educated in Spain with a view to being made king. Control over the extent of his powers was to be maintained through a Council of the Realm and he was to accept the fundamental principles of the existing regime. Don Juan, however, never relinquished his claim to the throne.

When Franco eventually announced his decision on the monarchy in July, 1969, he proposed Prince Juan Carlos of Bourbon as his heir, and Juan Carlos took the oath as future King of Spain during a ceremony in the Cortes (Parliament). He swore loyalty to the principles of the National Movement, the only legal political organization in Spain. Franco passed over the claim of Don Juan.

In November, 1966, he presented to the Cortes a new "Organic Law" of the state providing for a Prime Minister to be appointed by the head of state from a list of three proposed by the Council of the Realm. Political parties remained forbidden but the law introduced elections for some deputies to the Cortes. In December, 1966, the law received a large favourable vote on a referendum.

In June 1973, Franco implemented the most important clause of the 1966 Organic Law—the separation of head of state from head of government. Thus, for the first time since Burgos in 1936, the Caudillo shed a part of his absolute power. The Prime Minister was Admiral Carrero Blanco, aged 70, who had long been Franco's closest political associate, and who could be guaranteed to keep "Francoism" going. The new government had fewer technocratic ministers. Lopez Bravo was retired, but the European policy was to be kept going at full steam. A degree of political participation through "associations" inside the National Movement, which would enable criticism of government policy to be expressed, was to be encouraged.

## Falangist pressure to change succession

Admiral Carrero Blanco, and his car, were blown over a six-storey building in central Madrid on December 20 by an explosion engineered by Basque separatists.

Francisco took the death of his life-long friend remarkably calmly. As Prime Minister in succession to Carrero he chose Carlos Arias Navarro, a man of proven administrative ability but even more renowned as an uncompromising upholder of the law. He allowed Arias to form his own Cabinet and to include in it a number of liberalization. On February 12, 1974 Arias announced his intention to put before the Cortes bills to reform local authorities on more democratic lines and to legalize political associations. The term parties had been anathema to Franco since 1939. Censorship of the printed word became little more than a formality immediately. The proposals met with determined opposition from a small body of Falangists of the old school known as the *Ultras*. When it appeared that Prince Juan Carlos favoured even greater liberalization they sought to persuade Franco to dismiss Arias and to change the succession.

On July 9, however, Franco developed thrombo-phlebitis and 10 days later suffered a very severe haemorrhage from which he was not expected by his doctors to recover. Franco thereupon assented after some persuasion to the temporary assumption by the Prince of the powers of Head of State, powers which he withdrew on September 1 the moment his doctors declared him "as fit as could be expected in a man of his age".

During his convalescence Franco had turned to the friends of his earlier years who were principally *Ultras*, civilian and military. They failed to persuade him to change the succession or dismiss Arias after his resumption of the headship of State, but they did obtain a minor victory when Franco dismissed Arias's liberal Minister of Information, Pio Cabanillas, and a greater one when, in December, Franco personally rejected Arias's proposals for a liberal statute of political association and imposed on him a statute prepared by the *Ultras* which proved totally unacceptable even to the most moderate of would-be reformers of the regime. In all this, and in increasing his power over Franco during 1975, nothing helped the *Ultras* more than the acts of terrorism which occurred during the period in the Basque provinces, Madrid, Barcelona and elsewhere. Each act was presented to the evermore aging Franco as proof that any liberalization would end only in anarchy similar to that against which he claimed to have risen in 1936. He insisted to the last on the persecu-

tion of dissidents, and turned a deaf ear to appeals from the Church for mercy and amnesty of the political prisoners and detainees who came to number during 1975 more than at any time over the previous 25 years.

Public opinion polls in Spain on political questions are rare. One, however, held in 1971 showed how ordinary Spaniards thought about Franco and the regime. Nine Spaniards out of 10 said they wanted Spain to join the EEC, and no less than 91 per cent approved of Franco's recent efforts to improve relations with Eastern Europe. More than 70 per cent believed that Spain's political structure was bound to change fundamentally over the next few years and 62 per cent expected trouble when Franco went.

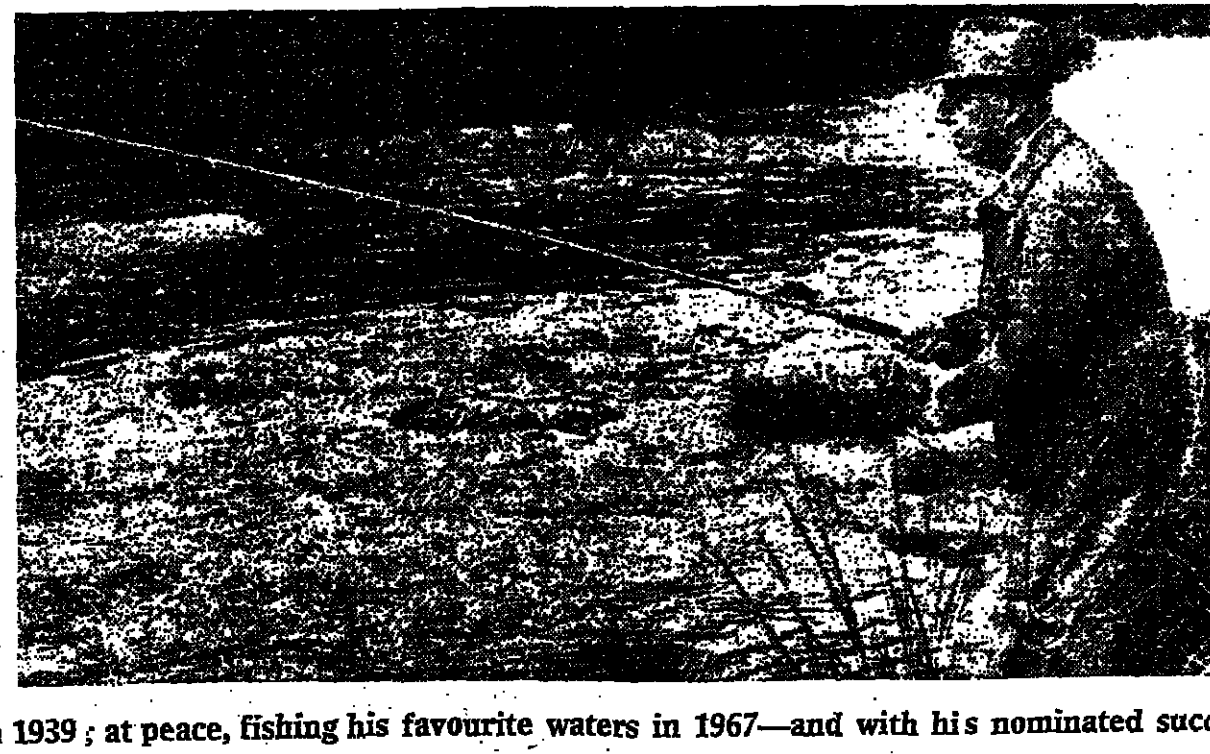
Francisco gave Spain a period of law and order which was not merely the result of exhaustion from the ferocious civil war. In terms of Spain's past, it was no mean achievement. Between 1836 and 1838, three Spanish Kings had been deposed, two Regents exiled, four Prime Ministers assassinated. There had been 24 major Army revolts, and three civil wars. Spain had had two dictatorships and two Republics. Further, Franco and his advisers, most notably after 1959, encouraged the forces which turned Spain into a modern industrial country rather than one in which the interests of the great landowners predominated. Spain caught up with the rest of Western and Southern Europe so far as economic development was concerned. The level of literacy rose as did the standard of living.

Francisco maintained a personal consensus which in the seventies was the stronger because of material progress. Yet the Franco regime itself accepted with increasing reluctance by the Spanish people because of the restrictions which it maintained on elementary political liberty.

Francisco governed by treating politics as a branch of military science. He prevented Spain from becoming a totalitarian fascist state (though it is still mistakenly called one), but he did not create a country in which the majority of its inhabitants felt reasonably free to move, to choose their own government, to choose their own ruler, to choose their own laws, to choose their own religion, to choose their own language, to choose their own culture, to choose their own way of life. He did not create a country in which the majority of its inhabitants felt reasonably free to move, to choose their own government, to choose their own ruler, to choose their own laws, to choose their own religion, to choose their own language, to choose their own culture, to choose their own way of life.

This "clever, harsh, patient, unimaginative General" (Mr Hugh Thomas's phrase) was not a man of the meretricious qualities of many political leaders. He was not vain. He was not except for *raisons d'etat* an inhuman man. His character aroused general respect and, among his supporters, admiration. He was personally uninterested in money, worked exceptionally long hours until the last, and lived frugally, at the Pardo palace on the outskirts of Madrid which, though built by the Bourbons as a hunting lodge, had all the suitable grandeur of a royal palace. Franco's intimate friends were mainly military men, some of whom were friends from Moroccan days, and not all great figures in the regime.

Francisco liked shooting and spent much of his holidays deep-sea fishing. His private life was exemplary. He married in October, 1932, with a representative of King Alfonso at his wedding, Carmen Polo y Martinez Valdes, of an aristocratic and learned family of Oviedo. The only child of this marriage, a daughter, married the Marquis of Villaverde and has seven offspring. One of Franco's grand-daughters married in 1972 Don Alfonso de Borbon y Dampierre, a grandson of King Alfonso, and therefore a cousin of Prince Juan Carlos.



war, directing operations outside Barcelona in 1939; at peace, fishing his favourite waters in 1967—and with his nominated successor, Prince Juan Carlos, last year.



# BELL'S

## SCOTCH WHISKY

*"Afore ye go"*

[illegible]



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

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### Majority of Advisory Board oppose ge public funds to save Chrysler

Corina Townsend, a member of the Industrial Advisory Board, has said that a majority of the board members oppose the use of public funds to rescue Chrysler.

The board has reserved its recommendation on the government's proposal to provide a loan to Chrysler until it has seen a report from the Central Policy Review Staff, which is examining the difficulties in the American-owned car firm's financial position.

All the motor manufacturers are being consulted about which parts of the report should be deleted before publication. A Department of Industry spokesman confirmed yesterday that the 12-member board, which has been set up to advise the government on the Chrysler case for Industry Act aid.

Robert Clark, a merchant banker, did not take part because he is a director of British Leyland.

The board's view is that the provision of assistance in rescue cases could weaken other companies producing comparable products and it is important not to divert resources which might be better employed in supporting and strengthening successful sectors of industry.

If the Government decides to assist Chrysler it will need to carry the advisory board with it, as the Opposition, which has been silent on the issue, knows the Government will need parliamentary approval for a substantial rescue operation.

Mr Peter Cooke, who is an adviser to Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, will be taking over the responsibility for banking supervision from Mr George Blunden. Mr Blunden has been responsible for the Bank's supervisory system during the past year and a half, but has been appointed director of the Bank with effect from March 1 next year. He will replace Mr Jack Davies, who is retiring, in charge of the Bank's domestic affairs. Mr Cooke will retain his existing responsibilities for liaison with the European Economic Community and between the Bank and City associations.



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### Revival plan may hit the Midlands

Webb, who is now effecting the purchase of the Leyland plant, has said that the plan to revive the Leyland plant may hit the Midlands.

The Leyland plant, which is now being purchased by the Leyland group, is a major source of employment in the Midlands. The plan to revive the plant may hit the Midlands, as the Leyland group is now effecting the purchase of the Leyland plant.

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Chrysler C8 planned for launch in mid-1977. This up-market saloon will have a traditional rear-wheel drive configuration and employ two engine options—an uprated version of the 1.6-litre engine and the 2-litre French-made Simca which powers the Chrysler 180.

The Iranian version of the C8 will be powered by the Simca engine only. The Chrysler 180 has been a poor seller, leaving Simca with spare engine capacity which could be expanded and diverted to Iran. Like the present Paykan, body panels and other components will be manufactured in Iran.

A number of large European component companies, including Guest, Keen & Netherfield, are already building plants there to increase the proportion of locally produced parts.

Output of the C8 would be at most 70,000 a year. This means that Stoke would be reduced to producing some 40,000 engines a year compared with its present capacity of 300,000. The remainder would come from Simca France.

There is a proviso, however,

that C8 output figures could be updated if British quality were improved sufficiently to permit it to be exported.

Chrysler's British dealers would be offered a range of Simca cars, including the new Alpine and topped off by a lavishly-equipped 2-litre. Chrysler in Detroit prepared contingency plans more than two years ago for a 50 per cent reduction in British output by 1980.

This is in line with industry opinion in support of lower volume, up-market production, as the only solution for Chrysler UK.

These plans have been accelerated and made even tougher by a combination of the sharp recession in British car sales and the unexpected widening in the Shah's plans to develop an Iranian motor industry.

It is understood that this delay has set back Iranian car output targets by at least two years. While this has been a blow for Chrysler, Detroit is apparently trying to turn it to its advantage by switching supplies from Britain to its more profitable and

### Dearer gas to follow contract changes for North Sea groups

By Roger Vielrope  
Consumers will have to pay more for North Sea gas after changes in the long-term contracts under which the British Gas Corporation buys its supplies from the oil companies.

Half the amount it will pay for supplies from the Frigg and Brent fields in the northern part of the North Sea. British Gas considers price questions confidential and declines to comment on them.

Higher prices for southern North Sea gas came at a time when the corporation is struggling to hold down its tariffs. As well as increased raw material costs, it is facing a £30m rise in its rates bill and, like the electricity industry, has to cope with proposals from the Government for turning the tariff system on its head.

The Electricity Council is preparing to oppose any attempt to change its pricing structure and the Gas Corporation will probably take similar steps. Leading figures in the electricity industry feel that the initial consumption at a low price and increasing the charges for consumption after 3,000 kilowatt hours—will not benefit the needy the scheme is designed to help.

Inverting tariffs would mean that between 13 and 14 million consumers would benefit but only two million of them would really be in need of assistance. Inversion could only take place at the expense of three million other customers who would pay more. Of these three million, about a million are among the poor.

Government proposals for including electricity and gas prices in the selective price restraint scheme is also causing concern. Domestic electricity price increases could be held to 5 per cent only if the price to industry is put up sharply.

Even with escalation, the corporation is paying only about 13p a therm for southern North Sea gas, less than

### Singapore hint of Haw Par settlement

By Our Financial Staff  
In a distinct softening of attitudes, Mr Hon Sui Sen, Singapore Finance Minister, told his country's Parliament yesterday that there was a possibility of a settlement between the new boards of Haw Par and Slater, Walker Securities over the \$22m loan owed by Haw Par.

If there was no settlement, he said, "the wrangles inside and outside the courts will provide everyone with the details of some of the ingenious schemes and complicated transactions that the Slater, Walker group carried on in the Far East".

Although this apparent threat caused some surprise in London, there was relief that the Singapore government appears now to have moved to defuse the affair into a straight commercial squabble over the purchase, by Haw Par, of Slater, Walker's Hongkong assets in early 1974 and the resulting financing arrangements.

The minister confirmed that offers of renegotiation had been made by Slater, Walker before the departure of Mr Jim Slater, the former chairman. Three weeks before his resignation Mr Slater offered to write down the loan. The offer was apparently designed to halt loss of confidence in the bank after adverse publicity in the Far East and was rejected.

The Finance Minister was replying to written questions from a Singapore MP. His comments it is clear that the earlier decision to withhold a final settlement until the publication of the government inspector's interim report, made at the end of this month, has been reversed.

Asked what further evidence he had against the beneficiaries of Spydar, he said that he had only a statement from Mr Jim Slater, written, apparently last August, explaining the circumstances of Spydar's formation, and one or two documents.

On the progress of the investigation, he said: "After five months of investigations, he (the inspector) should have sufficient material upon which to base his interim report."

It is understood, meanwhile, that new information has emerged in the Far East press over the past week suggesting that Spydar's purchases of shares in Haw Par associates were not, as suggested recently, made on a retrospective basis. Slater assurance: Mr Slater confirmed yesterday that he still holds the 2 million Slater, Walker shares shown in the group's last accounts. This assurance follows reports of significant Slater, Walker share sales by two nominee companies, Bagecourt and Markcastle, which are controlled by employees of the group.

It is understood that these two companies are nominees for Slater, Walker Investment. It is also understood that the dealings relate to the transfer of shares between different nominee accounts which were, none the less, under the same beneficial ownership. The Stock Exchange is investigating share dealings in Slater, Walker before the resignation announcement.

### Ryder summons sides at Leyland

Shakespeare, who now effecting the purchase of the Leyland plant, has said that the plan to revive the Leyland plant may hit the Midlands.

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### Court ban on cable makers' price rings

Leading cable manufacturers were yesterday forbidden by the Restrictive Practices Court from operating price rings in trading agreements.

The court granted with costs an injunction sought by the Director General of Fair Trading restraining seven companies from operating price rings in trading agreements which they terminated last December. They were also restrained from giving effect to any other agreements which have not been registered.

The companies have now registered a new agreement which is the subject of a reference to the court. They are: BICC; Pirelli General Cable Works; Standard Telephones and Cables; Telephone Cables; AET (Cables); Connollys (Blackley); and Reliance Cords and Cables.

Before the court were three agreements related to tenders for the supply of switchboard cable to the Post Office, and external plant telephone cable to purchasers other than the Post Office.

Mr Francis Ferris, for the Director General, said that it was a particularly bad case of non-registration of agreements. The companies involved were some of the largest and most important in the country.

In relation to external plant telephone cable, the most important of the goods affected, they were the only suppliers in this country, and the sums involved were very large.

He said that in the case of two of the agreements, which related to switchboard cable and external plant cable, the

only customer was the Post Office Corporation. So that the Restrictive Practices Court, in granting the injunction, was operating, that had the effect of increasing prices, and those prices had been passed on to almost every person in the country.

Mr Ferris said the nature of the restrictions was particularly objectionable because they related to prices. By collusively agreeing their tenders, the parties made it appear that the price was a competitive one. When, in fact, it was an agreed one. It was a case where the order he sought was appropriate.

He added that the agreements were not registered and not disclosed until they came to light in December when the parties and their advisers began to prepare their case on a reference made by the Director General to the Monopolies Commission.

Commenting on the belief expressed by the parties that the Post Office was satisfied that the practices had not led to the quoting of unreasonable prices, Mr Ferris said this was not the understanding of the Director General.

He said that after terminating these older agreements the parties entered into a new agreement with the supply of cable to the Post Office, which had been registered. The new agreement had already been referred to the court.

Mr Ian Threlfall, QC, for the respondent companies, said he was prepared to submit to the court's order. It was admitted that each of the old agreements contained restrictions to which the Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1956, applied.

### Floor price for oil 'by Christmas'

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Nov 20  
A minimum safeguard price for oil should be established "just before Christmas" by the 18 consumer countries which are members of the International Energy Agency, M Etienne Davignon, chairman of the body's managing board, said here today.

Emphasizing that he was giving "impressions", he sounded a warning against expectations that because a price range of \$6 to \$8 a barrel was increasingly being bandied about, a split in the difference and arriving at \$7 was the most likely outcome.

He was speaking as the managing board met in Paris one year after it was set up to put the last touches to a long-term cooperation programme on energy, designed fundamentally to end the western consumer nations' overdependence on Middle East oil.

He was careful to leave the agency further room for manoeuvre in the light of the coming international conference on economic cooperation, when the oil producer nations will face the industrialized world.

The minimum safeguard price was clearly a prime element to achieve a programme to develop alternative sources of energy, but so was the extent of dialogue, and not confrontation, achieved between the consumer and producer nations, he stressed.

Setting the minimum safeguard price has been several times put back and was originally intended to be agreed by the 18 member countries as part of a package deal on energy by July 1.

Dr Ulf Lantze, the Paris-based agency's director-general, earlier this week offered as likely the \$6 to \$8 figure, arguing this would cover the bulk of the cost of new energy sources produced within the IEA.

The Opec countries set the barrel price of Arabian crude at \$11.51 late in September, but Britain is very interested in the minimum safeguard notion because these politically sensitive prices might come down, threatening North Sea oil.

M Davignon indicated the IEA still wanted the cooperation conference to begin on December 16.

### Big rise in American corporations' profits

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Nov 20  
America's inflation rate remains modest by international standards but latest figures, released today, confirm the upward trend is now accelerating. Consumer prices rose on a seasonally adjusted basis by 0.7 per cent last month, after gains of 0.5 per cent in September and 0.2 per cent in August.

On the positive side for the economy, however, the Department of Commerce announced that revised real gross national product data show the third quarter gain was 13.2 per cent, while new figures on corporate profits show an increase of \$20,000m in the third quarter after a \$12,000m gain in the second quarter.

Government economists fear that the rise in consumer prices this month will be still greater than that recorded in October, owing largely to sharp advances recently in wholesale prices.

The upward trend of consumer prices is now again offsetting gains in average earnings. The Department of Labour admitted today that the 1.9 per cent gain in real spendable earnings over the last 12 months was due to the tax cuts introduced in May.

Real spendable earnings were unchanged last month from September's level, while the 0.7 per cent rise in consumer prices was the third largest monthly gain of its kind this year.

The consumer price index rose 7.6 per cent in the last 12 months to 164.6 (1967 equals 100) and its current annual rate of increase, on the basis of data for the last three months, which is low because of the tiny August rise, 5.2 per cent.

The Commerce Department had first estimated the real GNP rise for the third quarter at 11.2 per cent.

It said the 2 per cent upward revision today was due to a cut of \$4,000m to a level of \$5,500m in the volume of business inventory liquidation and an estimate of a \$12,200m trade surplus, against an earlier estimate of a \$9,800m surplus.

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Peterborough Development Corporation

### Reactor group lays off 740 in California

General Atomic Corporation, which withdrew its high-temperature gas-cooled reactor from the market last month, said at La Jolla, California, yesterday that it was laying off 740 employees, including about 20 per cent of its regular work force.

The company, an equal partnership of Gulf Oil and Scallion Nuclear Inc., a member of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, said the layoffs involve 540 regular employees and 200 contract employees out of a total 2,800.

The company recently blamed soaring costs and uncertainties in the electric utility industry for the difficulties involving the high-temperature reactor, its largest commercial activity.

### Property Trust is ng way to rebuild

Gleeson, who would be meeting the claims of GRA, said that it was placed in a position where it was now, Mr J. E. Bank last month after the refusal of its major creditors to agree to a moratorium on the basis put forward by GRA's financial advisers, Barings.

The success or otherwise of these realizations would determine the amount for which GRA Property Trust might become liable under guarantees it had made, on an unsecured basis, of some £3.5m of the £5.2m unsecured indebtedness of Kay-Beyan and its subsidiaries at end-September. At that point the aggregate secured indebtedness of GRA Property Trust, GRA Developments and GRA Promotions to their major loan creditors, who did agree to the moratorium, was some £14.8m; and there was also some £1m owing to the inland Revenue.

### How the markets moved

The Times index: 154.65 - 2.27  
The FT index: 372.1 - 5.7

**Rises**

Aust & NZ	7p to 415p	Halford Sheed	55p to 256p
Est of NSW	20p to 655p	Hammer Bros	7p to 15p
Est of Victoria	5p to 175p	Johnson-Rich	5p to 10p
Newmarket	5p to 58p	Newmark L	5p to 80p
Coalite & Chem	3p to 231p	Rummenan W	9p to 123p
Deeson	3p to 10p	Stewart	10p to 15p
UUI Ducties	5p to 268p	UU Textiles	11p to 51p

**Falls**

Brit Am Tob	5p to 330p	Nat Wminder	7p to 238p
Costello R	7p to 235p	Pretoria P Chem	10p to 175p
Cranes Franchist	1p to 16p	Sandeman G	5p to 40p
Fortman & Mison	8p to 485p	Sandman W	8p to 140p
Hawker Sida	8p to 334p	Tube W	8p to 232p
Imp Chem Ind	5p to 315p	Unilever	8p to 420p
Lloyds Bank	5p to 235p	Vickers	2p to 149p

Equities fell back in a quiet session. Gold rose 75 cents an ounce to \$142.50. SDR-5 was 1.17761 on Thursday while SDR-E 0.576094. Converter's Index was at 1125.7 (previous 1126.7). Reports pages 25 and 26

### THE POUND

Australia \$	1.68	Bank	1.62
Austria Sch	38.50	Bell	38.50
Belgium Fr	84.00	Brussels	81.00
Canada C	2.11	Canada	2.06
Denmark Kr	12.70	Denmark	12.30
Finland Mkk	8.15	Finland	7.95
France F	9.25	France	8.95
Germany DM	5.45	Germany	5.25
Greece Dr	80.00	Greece	75.00
Hongkong \$	10.00	Hongkong	10.00
India Rupee	1.50	India	1.50
Japan Yn	645.00	Japan	620.00
Netherlands Gld	5.55	Netherlands	5.35
Norway Kr	11.60	Norway	11.25
Portugal Esc	75.00	Portugal	65.00
S Africa Rd	1.80	S Africa	1.67
Sweden Kr	9.20	Sweden	12.00
Switzerland Fr	5.55	Switzerland	5.35
Taiwan NT\$	1.00	Taiwan	1.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	42.50	Yugoslavia	39.00

Notes for small denomination bank notes only, as quoted by Reuters. Bank rates only, as quoted by Reuters. Bank rates only, as quoted by Reuters.

### Property Trust is ng way to rebuild

Gleeson, who would be meeting the claims of GRA, said that it was placed in a position where it was now, Mr J. E. Bank last month after the refusal of its major creditors to agree to a moratorium on the basis put forward by GRA's financial advisers, Barings.

The success or otherwise of these realizations would determine the amount for which GRA Property Trust might become liable under guarantees it had made, on an unsecured basis, of some £3.5m of the £5.2m unsecured indebtedness of Kay-Beyan and its subsidiaries at end-September. At that point the aggregate secured indebtedness of GRA Property Trust, GRA Developments and GRA Promotions to their major loan creditors, who did agree to the moratorium, was some £14.8m; and there was also some £1m owing to the inland Revenue.

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### Share prices

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## Increases on Shell UK Chemicals products

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Prices of many chemical products sold by Shell Chemicals UK are being raised by between 5 and 15 per cent following Price Commission approval. Further increases are on the way.

The increases granted by the commission will increase the company's revenue by about £5m in a full year.

The company said yesterday that this was the first general increase in prices which it had been able to apply to its United Kingdom manufactured products since the beginning of March.

This latest round of increases was granted under the allowable cost provisions of the Price Code but Shell said they largely related to higher costs incurred in the first three months of this year and took no account of the additional costs which had been experienced since.

Shell said yesterday that these increases, and those which would flow from the recent Opec decision to put up crude oil prices by 10 per cent, would both be the subject of a further application to the Price Commission when it had been able to determine the additional costs burden involved.

## Unit trust sales reach highest level since June

Net unit trust sales of £14.5m in October were the highest for the industry since June this year, when they totalled £15.5m.

In the intervening months net sales have averaged £12.5m. Gross sales and redemptions also reflect the midsummer pattern. Sales of £27.1m are substantially higher than any figure since June, when they reached £26.6m, while redemptions are also up at £12.5m compared with £10.2m in September.

Unit trust sales tend to reflect the performance of the stock market, and the level of October sales tends to confirm this. The launch of two new funds, the Vanguard High Yield Fund and the Barrington High Yield Fund, did not significantly contribute to the higher figures.

## Greece to establish £60m state aircraft industry

From Mario Modiano, Athens, November 20

Greece is to establish a state aircraft industry at a cost of £60m with the help of four American companies—Lockheed Aircraft International, Westinghouse, General Electric and Austin Engineering.

The decision was taken by the Supreme Council of National Defence in a series of meetings presided over by Mr Constantine Karamanlis, Prime Minister, this week.

The council also decided to buy from Romania 2,000 military personnel vehicles, the first Greek order for military

## Incentives sought for UK shipyards

By Peter Hill

Shipbuilders and shipowners are to make a joint approach to the Government in an effort to provide a greater incentive for United Kingdom owners to build in Britain.

This emerged yesterday at a meeting between representatives of the Shipbuilders' Association and the General Council of British Shipping against the background of the likely introduction later today of the Bill to nationalise the shipbuilding and aircraft industries.

In a joint statement issued afterwards the two sides described the talks as "useful and constructive" and noted that they had also agreed on the need for a substantial British shipbuilding industry.

Inevitably the meeting discussed a number of possibilities, but both sides have agreed on a common approach to the Government. Mr Eric Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is to be asked to examine the measures which can be implemented to deal effectively with the world's current overcapacity in shipbuilding; to improve the inflation insurance scheme and extend it to vessels built for British owners; and to grant specific performance bonds in respect of United Kingdom built ships.

Further points to the meeting was given by Professor Kenneth Alexander, chairman of state-owned Govan Shipbuilders, who gave warning that the

Government would have to take urgent action in the next two months to help shipbuilders.

Speaking after a launch from the company's yard, he said that last year three-quarters of the new ship tonnage bought by British shipowners had been built in foreign shipyards.

Asked how urgent the action from the Government should be, he said: "I am talking about decisions well before the middle of next year—in the next two months." Govan's present order book stretches forward for the next two years but the volume of orders was not sufficient to provide full employment over that period.

Sir Eric Yarrow, chairman of Yarrow (Shipbuilders) on the

Clyde, underlined the views of many of his colleagues on the prospect of nationalization when he called for better compensation terms and the minimum amount of interference in the management of the body. He was speaking after the launch of a new Royal Navy frigate.

Meanwhile, more trouble is brewing at the Belfast shipyard of Harland & Wolff, which although under state control, will not form part of the nationalized British Shipbuilders. It was claimed yesterday that about 1,000 workers are to lose their jobs under a management plan which has been put to trade union leaders. The company later denied the claim.

## Scilly order setback for Drypool

Hopes of 1,000 shipbuilding workers on Humberside received a setback yesterday. Workers employed by the troubled Drypool group, which has been under the direction of a bank appointed receiver since August as a result of the company's liquidity crisis, had hoped that the company would receive a £2m contract to build a new passenger ferry to operate between the mainland and the Isles of Scilly.

But yesterday at an extraordinary general meeting of the Isles of Scilly Steamship Co, it was decided to place the contract with state-owned Applecore Shipbuilders.

Mr Rodney Ward, the steamship company's chairman, said after the meeting that shareholders had considered a number of tenders for the contract to replace the existing vessel, including Drypool. But the tender from the North Devon-based Applecore company had been more attractive in terms of both price and delivery.

Construction of the new vessel, scheduled to enter service in the spring of 1977, is being supported by the Department of the Environment in the form of a £1m repayable grant to the company.

There had been hopes that the Government might see fit to divert the order to Drypool, which is currently working on a series of about a dozen ships including supply boats for the North Sea.

## State will pay £250m to pits' pension fund

By Our Energy Correspondent

A £250m contribution to the miners' pension scheme is to be made by the Government over the next 20 years. Provision for the state aid is contained in the National Coal Board (Finance) Bill published yesterday.

The proposed legislation will implement the Government's long-term assistance to the coal industry made by the Government last year. The Bill will also give the NCB increased borrowing powers, and extend the Government's powers to make grants to the Board for the stocking of coal or coke.

Increased borrowing powers are vital if the NCB is to implement its proposed £600m additional capital investment programme aimed at increasing output and sinking new pits over the next 10 years. The Bill increases the statutory borrowing limit of £700m to £1,100m.

This can be increased to £1,400m by Order, subject to the approval of Parliament. The contribution towards the pension scheme will be made in 20 annual payments of up to £12.5m. This will relate to that part of the deficiency in the scheme's funds regarding existing pensions which were in benefit on April 6, 1975.

Provision is also made for the amount of the Government's contribution to be increased to take account of any changes in the rate of pension made to maintain their purchasing power.

For this purpose there will be periodic reviews, probably each year, which will also take into account the state of the scheme's funds and of the NCB's finances.

Help for the NCB in financing excess stocks of coal at power stations and steel works is also proposed.

## Foundrymen hit back at Lord Ryder

Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, was bitterly criticized by the Council of Ironfoundry Associations yesterday for what it described as his "irresponsible, unimpaired and discouraging" attack on the industry earlier in the week.

The council said that it was not a good augury for the quality of judgment that the NEB would bring to bear on the country's affairs that it should commence its official existence with such an important attack on an important industry.

In a statement issued after a meeting yesterday the council referred to the critical comments made by Lord Ryder—in an article in *The Times*, *Recognizing the Foundry's Problems*, the council said that it was working closely with the ferrous foundries' little NEDdy in seeking solutions.

"In particular, the council condemns the superficiality of Lord Ryder's approach to the statement," it added. "It demonstrates his ignorance of the structure of the industry and the markets it serves, and does a great disservice to the United Kingdom ironfounding industry."

Questioning Lord Ryder's knowledge of the industry, the council referred to his report on the future of British Leyland which had noted that foundries within the motor group had produced only half those foundries outside. Lord Ryder had advocated improvement of Leyland's seven foundries at a cost of some £50m.

Unions challenge Pirelli move to dismiss 1,450

From John Earle, Rome, Nov 20

Industrie Pirelli, the Italian rubber and cables concern, is expected to send out letters of dismissal to 1,450 of its 34,000 workers tomorrow following suspension of two days of talks here tonight with ministers and union representatives.

A union spokesman however pointed out that under Italian procedures the dismissal notices will not take effect for 27 days, thus giving time for further discussions.

The unions have rejected the redundancies which it says are an essential feature of a 270,000 lire (£192m) recovery programme over the next five years.

Industrie Pirelli has lost over 80,000 lire (£57m) in the past five years.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A remedy for British disunity and lack of self-confidence

From Mr R. C. Comery

Sir, Mr Jack Jones now puts much of the blame for Britain's troubles on "disunity and lack of self-confidence in big business" and appeals to industry to end "its strike against the country".

Disunity and lack of self-confidence are not confined to this one section of the community—they are endemic throughout the whole country. A field of 14.75 per cent on Consols and an exchange rate of \$2.06 demonstrate that the sub-standard performance of Great Britain Limited does not inspire confidence at home or abroad.

Our economy will perform just as well as those of other free countries if our electorate can be persuaded to maintain a sensible administration in office for at least five years (the present one would do, wars and all); and that administration committed itself to providing a stable legislative framework within which long-range investment decisions can be reached and implemented by both the public and private sectors, to cutting back and controlling public spending and restoring the balance between the two sectors, to restoring incentives by eliminating those punitive features in our present scales of personal taxation which are regarded as both incredible and mindless by people doing sensible jobs in the rest of the EEC, and by discontinuing the ridiculous and unfair requirement that no salary increases are permitted above an arbitrary level.

The chaps who are caught by this total pay freeze are oddly enough the ones to whom Mr Jones refers as being "on strike"—they may possibly con-

sider themselves as being "locked out".

Yours faithfully,  
RONALD COMERY,  
40 Acadia Road,  
St John's Wood,  
London, NW8,  
November 16.

From Mr J. P. G. Nagler

Sir, Speaking at Flint, North Wales, last Saturday, Mr Jack Jones referred scathingly to private industry investing in "candy floss businesses such as bingo". Perhaps he is unaware of the popularity of bingo in this country, in which case he should know that:

(1) The Gaming Board reports that there are about 6 million regular bingo players in the United Kingdom, or 15 per cent of the adult population.

(2) The average daily attendance at bingo halls is about half a million, or 182 million attendances a year. By comparison, there were 254 million attendances at football league matches last year.

(3) Approximately 85 per cent of players in licensed clubs are women.

(4) Playing bingo to many working class women is the equivalent of their husbands going to the pub.

(5) Bingo operators take no revenue from the actual gaming on cash bingo. One hundred per cent of the stake money must be returned to the punter less a 5 per cent Government levy.

(6) The Government raised £6 million from bingo last year after the levy was 24 per cent. This figure will almost certainly double to £12 million in the coming year.

I would submit that in decrying bingo, Mr Jones is also decrying the enjoyment of millions of working class women, many of whom are mothers or wives of members of his own union. I would also

remind him that in negotiating for higher pay and a shorter working week for his members, he is himself encouraging the growth in leisure amenities through increased leisure time spending.

Finally, £12 million made available to the Government for productive investment is surely a worthwhile contribution.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES NAYLOR,  
7 Caroline Place Mews,  
Lopson W2 4AQ,  
November 18.

From Mr J. P. Stewart

Sir, It is reported that Mr Jack Jones, former *enfant terrible*, and now suddenly the Government's guardian angel, recently asserted that private industry has been striking against the country by not sufficiently re-investing retained profits.

He rather typically omitted to give the full picture by mentioning that during the past decade private industry has been unable to find the increased investments so badly needed due to the continuing decline in profitability undoubtedly caused by, on the one hand, the greed of big governments and the spite of the present administration, and, on the other, the irresponsible behaviour of many sectors of organized labour.

It is probably true to say that during the past year or so many of us have been lulled into the belief that Mr Jones had "seen the light" and assumed a mantle of responsibility, compromise and realism. How wrong can we be? These recent utterances put that he still prefers to put a policy of confrontation before a bit of compromise.

Yours faithfully,  
J. P. STEWART,  
32 Tubbenden Lane,  
Orpington,  
Kent,  
November 18.

Plight of small businesses

From Mr David Mitchell, Conservative MP for Basingstoke

Sir, Mr B. A. Cole (November 13) may be right in his plea for the ending of Corporation Tax and the replacement of the income it produced through other taxes.

He highlights the direct relationship between profits and the ability of companies to invest and its effect on the security of their workers, but may I stress how much more important this factor is in the smaller business and unquoted company sector?

These are the firms who provide a third of jobs in the United Kingdom, a vital segment of production and exports and a better return on the resources they utilize than any other sector of the economy. But unlike the large public company which can seek more working capital from the Stock Exchange or the Government, the small firm is limited in expansion by the amount of its surplus available for ploughing back into the business. (Not forgetting that the call for extra working capital occupied by inflation has to be met before funds can be devoted to expansion.)

Unhappily, at this time when job security and the investment in modern productive resources are a national priority, the Government are reducing the available funds by increased Corporation Tax, uncertainly timed CTT liabilities and the need to accumulate funds outside the business with which the owner-manager can meet his threatened wealth tax liabilities.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MITCHELL,  
Chairman, Conservative Parliamentary Small Business Committee,  
House of Commons,  
London SW1,  
November 17.

Making use of productivity techniques

From Mr E. A. King

Sir, Mr G. M. J. Richardson (November 4) is quite right to be enthusiastic about the Government's decision to make grants to the clothing industry money for improving productivity and efficiency.

We often complain about government expenditure but any money directed towards increasing productivity must be a very good investment.

All too often we forget that the means to improve our economic performance lies to a large extent in our own hands. Productivity techniques help the people who practice them have better lives. A long time has been spent in the past in the clothing industry in the use of productivity techniques.

Perhaps the action of the Government towards the clothing industry is a belated recognition that we can improve our productivity from existing resources.

Yours faithfully,  
E. A. KING,  
Director and General Secretary, Institute of Textiles in Work Study Organisation and Methods,  
9-10 River Front,  
Rushey,  
Middlesex EN8 3TP,  
November 19.

## Growth of nationalized industry costs

From Mr Michael Iovens

Sir, One has ceased to be amazed at the smoke screens thrown over sensible discussion of public sector expenditure and costs. But Mr Geoffrey Drain, of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, should not be allowed to get away with the kind of statistics he has produced in his recent *Business News* (November 13) in an attempt to put nationalized industry costs in their "perspective".

Mr Drain's statistics tell us only that the electricity industry has succeeded since 1967 in producing more electricity with fewer employees. With the technological possibilities in electricity generation, it would have been a national scandal if the industry had failed to do so. We need to know, however, that the public has reaped a benefit from this increased labour productivity and were not required to pay unreasonably high prices to a nationalized industry with a strong monopoly.

The Price Commission has concluded that nationalized industry prices have risen much faster than private sector prices because their costs have risen faster. The Commission decided that "recouping losses" due to price restraint did not explain this.

In the six months from December, 1974, to May, 1975, nationalized industry price increases notified to the Commission were double those of private sector industry. And, says the Commission, if electricity price increases had been notified

in excess of 10 per cent, they would have been greater still. Since May nationalized industry prices have risen five times as fast as the private sector's prices.

According to the National Income and Expenditure "Blue Book"—income from employment (including employers' pensions and insurance contributions as well as salaries and wages) rose 21 per cent between 1973 and 1974 in public corporations (including nationalized industries) compared with only 18 per cent in the private sector (including self-employed).

Employees rose 4.2 per cent in public corporations against a fall of 0.3 per cent in the private sector.

Income from employment of civil servants rose 27.4 per cent between 1973 and 1974 (8.8 per cent). Some of the latter rise was no doubt due to a transfer of employees from the local government sector—where incomes rose 20.5 per cent, or faster than in the private sector.

These figures are based on Table 13 of the Blue Book. Because they summarize many changes within very large categories, I will not make too much of them. They do, however, have a little more value than those given by Mr Drain.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL IOVENS, Director, Aims for Freedom and Enterprise,  
5 Plough Lane,  
London, EC4A 1AN,  
November 13.

## Japan urged to adopt new reflation tactics

Tokyo, Nov 20.—The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry called on the government and parliament to adopt new reflation measures to bring about an early economic recovery.

In a memorandum on urgent anti-recession measures, it proposed extraordinary income tax cuts for lower-income earners and a budget for the year starting April, 1976, to stimulate business through spending.

It asked the government to be flexible in approving local government bond issues and ensure that flooding of large amounts of national bonds does not squeeze year-end finance for smaller enterprises.

The first well drilled by a French-led consortium in the Mer d'Iroise, off the French Atlantic coast, is dry and has been abandoned, the ELP-2 gasine group announced. Drilling, which began five months ago, reached a depth of 4,552 metres.

Drilling on well Lizena-1, on the Armor Permit, about 60 miles west-north-west of Brittany was interrupted this week. Apart from some gas indices during the operation, "no other significant indices were observed", the announcement said.

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## Land Securities

### Interim results

The Directors announce that the unaudited consolidated results for the six months ended 30th September, 1975 are:

Figures in £000's	Six Months to 30.9.75	Six Months to 30.9.74	Year to 31.3.75
Total gross income	25,997	24,410	48,880
Income from completed properties:			
Net rents less outgoings and expenses	19,015	16,741	35,629
Less: Interest payable	10,309	9,826	20,053
Income before taxation	8,706	6,915	15,576
Less: Taxation (Note 1)	4,501	3,172	6,144
Net income from completed properties available for distribution	4,205	3,743	9,432
Earnings per share (Note 2):			
Basic	2.68p	2.51p	6.33p
Fully diluted	2.29p	2.24p	



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## and Securities ploughs its own furrow

figures from Land leave all the ques- the property sector unanswered. But tabling beyond doubt in which the group has been sold during at values which the market as a whole in the months since the in question were the only type for e has been used at is, not merely a traditional sense but rack-rented as

as worth another and, the group will be £78m after tax. This, with the July leaves the state of development pre- elimate its over- something over £20m

cent, it seems, are leations for any with Landis still ar of any plunee development. Mean-oup's income pov- ly, with an extra in over the year iding of the rent some extra from although Landis ne from general

on the forecast ermitted increase end the group's 4p yield only 3.6 ey are standing at little over 20 per cent asset value

impressive the illo there must be whether their sustained when expressing a buoyant situation a story is a vote of

in property it is still too that.

76 (1974-75) £274m £57.1m (£6.92m) 2.31p (2.24p)

ad of the market relative perform- ear, the Beecham's not shown much e latest market does there seem suppose that, the ng to show rela- while the market upward tack. For g that first-half of 28 per cent d up by a second ment of, say, the prospective 12p is still in the and the yield a

market that has e slightly appre- over the expiry illin patents in e had some better first-half to end- ures to celebrat e domestic end of as performed par- with an excep- summer for the e helping to cap very from the de- nance in the riod of 1974. Nor is wholly conten- its United King- still to be far too e kind of cash would like to see

seems clear that rowth in United is likely to be late pace than in six months the continues to do armaceutical side owing in both the and Japan, while ducts have pro-



Mr G. J. Wilkins, chairman of Beecham Group: hot summer helped drink sales.

duced good results in Germany, Nigeria and South Africa. At recent exchange rates, moreover, there should be a useful year-end bonus in sterling terms, while next year should see the benefit of any pick-up in the world economy. But at this stage it is hard to see the market favouring the traditional defensive hedges in preference to the cyclical.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75) Capitalization £479m Sales £252m (£202m) Pre-tax profits £25.6m (£27.5m) Dividend gross 4.02p (3.65p)

Wheatstef Distribution's profits were up at the half-year stage by 58 per cent on turnover up by 27 per cent, but the comparative period of last year had been unduly depressed by price controls and the costs of opening a new hypermarket at Eastleigh. Market expectations had thus already been pitched high and, given the forecast that the second half turnover growth will be slowing, the shares were marked 10p lower to 163p.

In fact the extra four-month contribution from the Eastleigh hypermarket has served to push up the Carrefour contribution to turnover from 8.3 per cent to 11.5 per cent, and after reaching the break-even point during the first half, the overall operation should move into profit in the second. Thereafter, it looks as though the 70,000 sq ft Minworth Carrefour, for which permission was recently obtained, will be in operation towards the end of next year or early in 1977, and there is a good chance that a further and bigger Carrefour may get the go-ahead in Bristol.

In the meantime, however, the shares are already looking forward well into the future, yielding a prospective 4.8 per cent, and given the handsome performance so far this year it would be unwise to expect too much of the shares just now.

Interim 1975-76 (1974-75) Capitalization £21.4m Sales £140m (£110m) Pre-tax profits £1.6m (£1.01m) Dividend gross 3.08p (2.31p)

Renold Recession damage Power transmission specialist, Renold, has had a solid growth record stemming mainly from its thriving overseas business. Immunity from the recession this time round was too much to hope for, but interim results to end-September show that it has come more badly adrift

than expected. Equally worry- ing, the worst is not over with even the company's second-half outlook couched deeply with indications that it may have to go on producing for stock.

Difficulties in getting price increases through, especially enough to offset cost pressures have played havoc with margins and coupled with an element of customer destocking, trading profits at home are down 25 per cent to £3.1m. Within that, the lighter end of the business in the gear and chain divisions has fared rather worse than the heavier end which has had diesel engines and North Sea activity to lean on.

While the order book still looks reasonably healthy as a result of the overspill from last year, those orders could just as easily melt away; certainly there has been no sign of any improvement in demand so far this half. If that is indeed the case, much of the proceeds from this summer's £8m rights issue could be required to fund stocks instead of going into capital investment. And there is every chance of interest charges—up £29,000 to £16,500 in the first half—exceeding last year's £3.2m.

Falling 12p to 138p on the results, Renold still looks vulnerable on a prospective p/e ratio of over 10. But as a favourite second-line engineer among the income-hungry institutions the prospective yield of 7.7 per cent should give support, even if there are heavy engineering buys around at the moment.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75) Capitalization £55.7m Sales £12.7m (£11.6m) Pre-tax profits £5.23m (£6.46m) Dividend gross 3.85p (3.73p)

Nat Carbonising Lossmakers eliminated National Carbonising's first half trading performance was disappointing but the market took comfort from the news that lossmakers within the group have been dealt with, and the shares closed 1p higher at 20p.

A £12m fall in turnover reflects reduced vehicle distribution, owing to supply problems. Rexco and coke sales held up in money terms though not by volume and that was what caused most of the impact on profits. Solid fuel production is volume sensitive and at present the recession is badly affecting both domestic and industrial demand, for exports as well as home consumption. It will be January when the restocking season starts, before one can gauge the winter prospects for solid fuel though transport, vehicle distribution and engineering profits appear to be on an improving trend.

Meanwhile, the loss-making coking plants at Rotherham and Barnsley have cost just under £2m in write-offs and terminal costs, after redundancies that could save Natcarb around £1.5m a year in wage costs. Tax relief and a £285,000 clawback of provisions against disposal of the plant business reduces the exceptional losses, which come out at just £438,000 after the capitalizing of £683,000 of North Sea costs. The impact of all this on the balance sheet is to reduce reserves to just £149,000 while share premiums and goodwill look like being reduced by a further £5.5m after closure of the coking plants. In the light of this, it is just as well that Natcarb's North Sea outstanding commitments now stand at only £242,000 and no surprise that the interim dividend has again been passed. Even so, the shares are again an interesting speculation.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75) Capitalization £23.3m Sales £16.89m (£17.86m) Pre-tax profits £103,000 (£145,000) Dividend gross nil (nil)

Success in world markets has brought Japanese car makers many problems. Maurice Corina, just back from Tokyo, reports



## Japan on trade tightrope

This year, around 100,000 British motorists will have bought cars made on the other side of the globe. Demand outstrips supply, but model names such as Cherry, Sunny, Corolla, and Mazda are becoming as familiar on our streets as home-produced rivals. So much so that pressure for import controls has grown to a point where the Government is seriously considering some official action.

I have just returned from Japan after studying the source of supply. No-one who has seen the Ultimate spot welders, with their arc-welding around car bodies, or the other equipment, can doubt the ferocity and efficiency of Japanese car manufacture. Just 13 years ago, their output was less than 300,000 cars. Now they have the capacity to turn out over 4,500,000 cars plus 2,600,000 vans and trucks a year. It is a staggering achievement of machines and intensely loyal workers.

Besides securing 99 per cent of the home market, companies such as Nissan, Toyota, Honda, Mitsubishi, and Toyota Kogyo have secured world market shares, disclosing over 2,000,000 units annually from fleets of car-carrying ships where once only the Americans and Europeans fought for sales supremacy.

With the European Commission and the British Government have expressed concern about levels at which Japanese cars are arriving. In 1974, Japan shipped 386,727 motor vehicles to Europe, and the figure for this year will be higher. The fastest rate of growth has been in the United Kingdom—86,789 vehicles in 1973, 96,195 last year, and over 100,000 likely this year.

There is a worry that the United Kingdom market is being dominated by a few big examination of Britain's imports will show that continental producers are mainly responsible for the astonishing growth in foreign car sales here. The problem is that British Leyland's sales hopes, to secure a bigger share of the European market, and the going will be harder with a more vigorous Japanese presence.

There is a suspicion that Japan is taking a loss on European operations, to establish a market foothold, covering this with her home sales and high trade elsewhere, including the United States.

Last October, Japan's Industrial Structure Council released a report that her producers could increase four-fold the present total vehicle export to 8,330,000 units by 1985. The measure of this staggering figure is that it is more than four times the present entire annual output of British cars and trucks.

Against her total exports, Japan's shipments into Britain look paltry. But in many countries, including Britain, it has been the speed of increase and the impact on import bills that prompted governmental concern. In a world recession, when both American and European car makers are wracked by financial difficulties, the sight of Japan actually raising exports and earning profits can only be alarming.

In Britain, Mr Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has called the rate of growth in car imports "unacceptable" and the state has gone to the aid of British Leyland. Australia has imposed restrictions and won itself local assembly. Now the

United States is investigating allegations of dumping by the Japanese.

What cannot be challenged is the sheer efficiency of the Japanese car industry. Wages and conditions are comparable with those in the West, but what is very different is the rate of capital investment per head and the constant gains in productivity.

Consider, for example, Nissan Motor's plant at Tochigi. Here some £163m has been invested over the past seven years, and just over 5,000 assembly workers turn out 29,000 cars a month. It has never had a strike since the plant's establishment in 1968, planned and designed with union collaboration. Even new labour is being reduced and more machinery ordered. Men are not sacked, but redeployed.

There is the same massive investment at other plants, while huge sums are also devoted to the distributive and general marketing systems. Nissan's Hommoku wharf, where car carriers are loaded at break-neck speeds with cars for 100 Japanese cars this year and failed to search their conscience as urged by Mr Shore, who has also been to Nissan? Those cars have come across oceans (with parts following by the Trans-Siberian railway) to compete on price and quality against models made near motorways.

Every labour dispute and every delivery delay in the British industry has made it that little bit easier for the importer, including the Fiat, Ford, Volkswagen and Volvo dealers.

Whatever the reasons, Japan has made its biggest European sales impact in Britain and now the Department of Trade is locked in negotiations to clarify future import policy, helped by negotiations next month or January between the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.

Meanwhile, there is some restraint in current shipments by Japanese suppliers, no doubt fearful of selective import controls and now beginning to look away from hostile European governments towards the Middle East and Africa as new sources of export growth and possible local assembly.

The Japanese car maker is baffled by the hostility, the rooms of which go deep because Japan is a far away country that outsiders every other in its industrial growth, for many years nourished by a highly protected domestic market and the best of Western technology. Government and industry are umbilically linked and the outsider seeking entrance to the Japanese market place can easily sense some conspiracy to keep them out.

Car importers, with a miserable 1 per cent of the Japanese market, concentrate on prestige cars and see no future for mass small car imports unless rival

manufacturers can dramatically bring down prices and invest heavily in dealer networks. Both British Leyland's own distributor and Japan's largest import distributor told me that imports can be raised by concentration on larger models such as Jaguars and Rovers.

British Leyland is re-examining the situation and may yet be encouraged to try harder, and to divert some of its higher ranges of vehicles to Japan. There are many problems, not least of which must be the tough anti-emission controls now being imposed on cars sold in Japan, a much polluted country whose skill in industrial planning is belied by its filthy environment and bad housing. Some concessions on testing imported cars may, however, soon be made.

The message from the car makers of Japan is that Britain should sell more Scotch whisky (one hotel I visited charges £3 a nip), golf clubs, suits (Japan's main car spokesmen proudly wear English cloth), chocolate biscuits, and other things. To impose import controls on their cars could only hold back a developing business in such things. To sell more British vehicles in Japan requires substantial investment and a matching efficiency in car manufacture.

This does not mean that the Post Office is abandoning these new techniques, which promise an enormous increase in capacity for the future. But it appears, in present circumstances, that their payoff will be delayed three or four years, and so the overall R & D programme is being adjusted to reflect this.

Certainly a substantial effort is going into improving the existing telecommunications network, in parallel with the more exciting new developments leading towards System X.

Examples of both types of research have been on display this week at the Post Office's new £11m research centre at Marleham Heath, Suffolk, which is to be opened by the Queen today.

At present research employs about 1,700 people and takes

## On the threshold of System X

When in a lost situation, one closely examines research and development. So far, the Post Office board take the view that to react by cutting R & D is not right. We are maintaining R & D at present levels.

Behind this remark, made in an interview earlier this week by Mr James Merriman, Post Office board member for technology, lies the fact that the lead-time between a telecommunications idea and its application can be as long as eight or nine years.

And, by implication, Mr Merriman's comment means that the Post Office has taken a judgment on the prospects of recovery from the present economic depression. On past experience, when the recovery comes, it will mean a rapid demand for more telecommunications services.

The Post Office's decision to maintain its R & D spending, and in particular to move forward in a major programme towards the computer-based "System X" network for the 1980s and 1990s, follows a thorough appraisal.

"We've looked at each of our research projects, about 700 of them in all, critically," Mr Merriman says, "to determine where its pay-off time and its pay-off amount, in relation to the reappraised needs of growth and demand."

"It may well be that, to respond to market pressures and industrial needs, we shall put more resources into exchange development."

In methods of transmission, this sort of assessment is likely to mean priority for "conventional" (though improved) cable systems, while the development of new techniques such as waveguides and optical fibre transmission is slowed down.

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about £10m of the corporation's £27m annual R & D budget. The other two main R & D elements are telecommunications development, employing about 1,400 people; and telecommunications systems strategy, with 400 people.

In parallel with the Post Office work, British industry's telecommunications R & D amounts to between £30m and £40m a year, including £7m to £10m under Post Office contracts. As reported yesterday, a group of significant new development contracts for System X are expected to be placed soon.

Quite apart from the general desirability of close collaboration from the beginning between the Post Office and industry in the development of System X, the sheer scale of the project makes this essential.

It will take five to seven years to complete development; it may cost between £30m and £100m.

And what exactly is System X?

The Post Office calls it "a fresh range of switching and associated systems using new computer-based microelectronic technology" which is to be introduced in the 1980s.

If successful, it should give the Post Office a more advanced, effective and flexible network, and industry a range of attractive products for export.

In essence, System X will be assembled from standard, modular elements—covering switching, transmission and control. By arranging these elements or subsystems in different combinations, various services can be provided.

Parts of the system will be controlled by digital processors (alias computers), with provision for small local exchanges to be controlled remotely. The GEC Mark 28L has been selected as the main processor for the system.

In preparation for the forthcoming development contracts with industry, the Post Office is monitoring all aspects of development—from research to manufacture—more closely than ever before. This goes far beyond agreeing the main design principles of the system.

In particular, the Post Office is looking carefully at manufacturing aspects of the system. "This is a change in our relationship with industry," Mr Merriman concludes.

Kenneth Owen Technology Correspondent

## Should you speculate in commodities futures?

Commodities markets aren't for everyone. To begin with, you need substantial liquid assets. If you consider you are prepared for the risks involved, and are capable of the discipline this kind of investment calls for, it is possible to make substantial short term gains.

Limit losses, let profits run The key of all successful futures speculation is to limit your losses but let profits run. Many successful traders in commodities make losses on 75% of trades but still show a profit. On the other hand, a beginner can show profits on 75% of trades and still make a net loss.

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## Business Diary: Banking on Cooke • Habitat reunion

y ways a timely George Blunden on and Peter Blunden over as head of England's bank in division. Blunden recalled, took on July last year of the secondary when it became a Bank's existing s; sadly inadequate vision task. As for Blunden, he moves up to become one of the four executives on the Bank's 16-man Court of Directors, where he will be primarily involved in the inter-bank matters such as staff and premises. His is first new appointment of this sort since Sir Jeremy Morse left the Bank for the Committee of Twenty and was replaced by Christopher Dow.

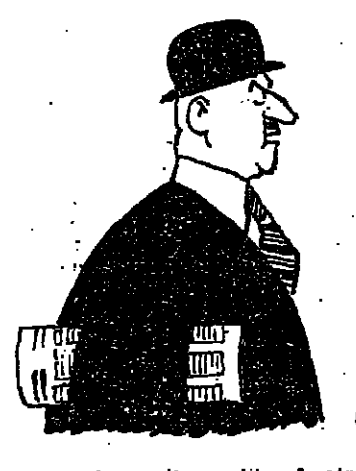
Back to start John Stephenson has decided to return home—which in this case means back to Habitat, and Terence Conran whose brilliant ideas on design and furniture boutiques fitted in so successfully with the aspiring tastes of the 1960s.

In one sense, though, Stephenson has gone further even than Conran in that he stayed with Ryman Conran and then, of course, Burton Group, whereas Conran, always an individualist, severed his links with the business when he found he couldn't take the big corporation atmosphere and took his ideas and Habitat stores with him.

Stephenson, who was at one time married to Conran's former wife, the journalist Shirley Conran, stayed on first with Ryman—the paper clips busi-

ness—and has latterly been occupying a hot seat at Burton, assistant managing director and marketing director of Burton Menswear, which is apparently known in the trade as "the trousers business". During his spell in menswear he reckons to have made a decent start on helping to deal with the main Burton problem, the sharp decline in demand for made-to-measure suits. "At least Burton's shops look like today and not like 1940", Robinson points out, and he plans to establish links with Burton Group as a consultant in store development and promotion.

At 43 he rejoins Conran as a main board director of Habitat Holdings and chairman of the group's design consultancy Conran Associates—a far cry, indeed, from the mid-1950s



"Why haven't we, like Australia, got a Governor-General with teeth?"



when he started out with Conran as "a sort of salesman-cum-warehouseman".

Branching out On Monday next week, Courts & Co is to open a new branch in Brompton Road, London, a modest enough event for the banking world at large. But for Courts, which has not opened a branch for seven years and still will have only 10, it is important both in itself and as heralding a new expansionary phase which will take the bank into areas it has never hitherto contemplated in its 283-year history. Courts is about to take an unprecedented step outside its south-eastern stronghold and carry its message—unashamed banking for the well-to-do—to the country.

Such a move comes close to

revolution. The farthest Courts has moved outside London so far is to Eton, which speaks for itself. But next summer it plans to open a branch in Bristol and thereafter to open a new branch in the provinces each year for the next five years. Bournemouth, Norwich and somewhere in Yorkshire are among other locations under consideration.

Does this mean Courts is changing its tack and moving down market in an attempt to pick up new business? Not at all, says Julian Roberts, head of business development. Courts has always had a large number of customers outside London, perhaps as many as 25 per cent at the top end of the private market, many of whom have never been into a Courts branch in their lives. Yet the bank reckons about 75 per cent of its potential AB market lies outside London.

Roberts admits the bank is taking a gamble, but believes there are enough wealthy individuals who value the Courts personal service, despite the relatively high banking costs, to make branches in the provinces viable. The bank will be looking for corporate business, but clearly regards its position at the top end of the private market as its prime selling point.

By sticking to the market it knows well, Roberts says Courts can avoid any conflict of interest with its parent, National Westminster.

Meanwhile, in order to foster closer links with its existing bigger customers in the provinces, Courts is taking the novel step of putting men on the road to go round and see them and make it clear that the bank is, indeed, interested in their business.



## PONTIN'S LIMITED

## ANOTHER SATISFACTORY YEAR

The 35th Annual General Meeting was held on 20th November in London. The following are extracts from the circulated statement of the Chairman and Joint Managing Director, Mr. F. W. Pontin:

The Accounts for the year to 31st March 1975 show satisfactory profits before tax despite the problems we encountered for holidays abroad in the 1974 holiday season. The Group profit before taxation amounted to £3,616,880, of which the overseas operations including Jersey, accounted for £543,763.

Agreement has also been reached in principle for the acquisition by your Group of the Prestatyn Holiday Centre in North Wales from The Thomas Cook Group Limited. To finance this acquisition and building programme and to update our existing properties, the Directors have decided to raise approximately £3,750,000 by a one for two Rights Issue at par.

Earnings per share this year were 2.32p compared to 2.79p last year and our net asset value now stands at 60.02p per share compared to 18.17p per share ten years ago. The Directors of the Company are confident that the Group is well equipped for this progress to continue, provided always that general economic conditions do not change fundamentally. Preliminary figures for the season just ended indicate that the Company has enjoyed another very successful season with further growth in turnover and profits.

## FINANCIAL NEWS

## Nearly-halved interim profits jolt market in Selection Trust

By Desmond Quigley

Shares of Selection Trust nose-dived yesterday with the announcement that interim pre-tax profits to September 30 had been almost halved—from £6.9m to £3.5m.

Initially the shares lost 40p, but a later rally left them down 16p at 474p, where they are still selling on a huge multiple of prospective earnings of nearly 22 times.

At attributable level the damage was less severe, thanks to credit from minorities rather than a debit; but Selection was still £1.5m adrift at £2.1m.

However, contrary to usual practice, Selection is hoping for the second half to contribute higher profits than in the first. Yesterday there were widely differing estimates for the full year total, but a middle course would seem to be on line with last year's total of £5.1m at attributable level.

Reasons for the mid-term fall were not hard to find. Operating profit was down £1.3m at £3.1m, helped partly because the Mount Newman iron ore project in Australia did not perform as well as expected because of labour disputes. The Spargoville nickel mine began production in March and

lost perhaps £350,000 in the first six months, although there should be a decline in the loss rate in the second half.

Dividend income fell 44 per cent to £1.7m, partly because there was no dividend from Tsumeb—again because of the depressed metals. There was also no dividend this time from Consolidated African Selection which has now been taken over. On the other hand, CAST made little contribution to the group because it has yet to receive dividends from diamond companies in Ghana and Sierra Leone. When the money does come in it should be about £1.2m.

## Ocean to sell China stake to Swires for £6m cash

By Peter Elliott

After hinging as much in the annual report, Ocean Transport and Trading has agreed to sell its 50 per cent stake in China Navigation to John Swire and Sons for around £6m cash. The deal, scheduled for completion by the end of the year, will give John Swire full control of CN.

China Navigation covers the western Pacific with a fleet of 10 cargo vessels, one passenger liner and several ships under charter. Earlier this year it sold its 31 per cent holding in Cathay Holdings, which in turn owned 60 per cent of Cathay Pacific Airways, because OTT wanted to end its indirect involvement in an overseas airline.

The deal follows an earlier decision that China Navigation's main cargo trades could best be developed by moving towards full containerization over the next few years. This will be undertaken in conjunction with Overseas Containers, in which OTT has a 49 per cent stake.

OTT has had a pretty eventful year so far. In May, it repossessed its 226,000-ton super-tanker, Titan, after Mr Hilmar Regsten, the Norwegian magnate failed to meet his charter arrears. After protracted negotiations it finally got £3.4m from the Reiksten group for non-payment of charter hire. Then it sold the vessel.

All this followed a jump in last year's pre-tax profits to a record £2.8m. But half-time profits in the second half slumped from £1.4m to £10.2m, though the board expects current-year figure to match 1973's £19.3m.

## Revival at home swings Streeters back to profit

By Ashley Druker

Bouncing back after last full year's loss of £439,000, Streeters of Godalming, civil engineering contractors, made a pre-tax profit of £90,000 for the half to June 30, compared with a loss of £493,000. The board market the occasion by resuming interim dividends. Turnover in the period increased from £2.9m to £3.65m, and the forecast total of £9m is on the cards, say the directors.

The turnover of some £583,000 was achieved entirely from fresh contracts within Britain. Generally, the order book is good and with its operations in Scotland and Saudi Arabia now established, the group is in a better trim to deal with the uncertainties of the home market.

The "attributable" in the half amounted to £43,000 (against loss of £489,000), producing earnings a share of 1p, against a loss of 11.5p. Declaring an interim payment of 0.7p gross, the directors add that application will be made to the Treasury for permission to restore the dividend level to that paid for the record year in 1973 (a total of 2.88p) before the appropriate time to consider a final payment.

The preceding year's loss was blamed chiefly on the cutback in public spending at end-1973. Profits began to come through in the middle of the second half, but too late to make any marked impact. Some of the delays on contracts were lifted and new contracts with price fluctuation clauses secured. The Middle East sewage contract gave a fillip to orders, which at June stood at £23m compared with £5m some 18 months before.

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## Re-shaping fillip to Robertson

Thanks to its successful re-shaping, Robertson Foods, the Gollywog jam and marmalade group, recouped last year's second-half downturn with a profits sweetener in the six months to September 30. But the shares eased yesterday after the figures.

On turnover up from £19.2m to £21.1m, pre-tax profit advanced from £735,000 to £877,000; the United Kingdom end contributed £582,000 (against £465,000) and overseas £290,000 (£270,000). Per-share earnings came out at 4.02p compared with 3.27p, and the half-time payment goes up from 1.57p to 1.72p gross.

Generally, with the fall in sugar prices passed on to the consumer, demand for preserves is expected to improve. Sales and profitability of other products also went well. Consumer demand actually exceeded productive capacity in the breakfast cereals division, which is to be expanded.

Overall, full-time profits to March 31 should match last year's £2.1m pre-tax.

## Bigger loss looms at Humphries Hlids

Reporting a further loss at half-time to September 30 of £212,000 (against one of £87,000), Humphries Holdings, motion film processors, expects even worse tidings full-time to March 31.

The group earlier forecast that the loss for the current year would be significantly cut from the £917,000 loss in 1974-75 to about £100,000. But much higher-than-forecast losses by Humphries Film Laboratories have continued into the second half, and the predicted loss will now be much steeper. Turnover for the half just past was slightly lower at £4.34m. There is again no interim dividend (the last payment was 1970).

The group is subsidiary of British Electric Traction (75 per cent-owned).

## 'No funds' for Stibbe shareholders

The receiver and manager appointed to G. Stibbe says that it is apparent that no funds will be available for any payment to shareholders, because of the large amounts owed to creditors.

The directors of the company, a Leicester maker of knitting machinery, called the receiver in over a year ago, after the group had run into a cash crisis.

## Thos Locker (Hlids)

Half time results to September 30 of Thos Locker (Holdings), a screening and filtration engineer, show an 18 per cent decline at the pre-tax level to £687,000. The board blames higher costs and lower demand, though turnover value rose 16 per cent to £5.9m. The dividend is held at 0.26p. Current order book is "reasonable", but second-half profits are likely to be less than the first.

## Wormalds again in red

In the red in the preceding 12 months by £120,000, textile group Wormalds, Walker & Atkinson incurred a steeper loss of £220,000 in the first half to August 31, against a profit of £24,000. The board blames the loss chiefly on depressed trading conditions in the blanket division. Turnover for the period fell from £3.08m to £2.89m. There is again no interim dividend. Meantime rationalization and re-equipment continue.

## Deborah buoyant

In spite of the continued slump in the building industry, all other divisions of Deborah Services, the most recent addition to the over-the-counter market, showed increased profit with an overall pre-tax outcome of £321,000 against £261,000 in the half to September 30. Mr A. L. Britton,

chairman, is confident the group will top its original forecast of £500,000.

## Cen &amp; Sheerw'd raise Trianco stake to 43 pc

After solving its boardroom troubles, Trianco now finds itself in the middle of a fast-moving merger. Earlier this month Central & Sheerwood, through various bids, increased its stake in Trianco to 37.3 per cent.

Yesterday, after consulting the Takeover Panel, C & S bought another 542,000 Trianco shares from its chairman, Mr Alexander Boyle, increasing its holding to 42.7 per cent. C & S now says an additional 7.02p cash offer will be made to all Trianco ordinary holders, with the offer conditional on it acquiring at least 50 per cent of Trianco's equity.

If the offer goes unconditionally, C & S say it will safeguard the rights of Trianco's preference holders and provide Corinthian Securities—which holds all Trianco's convertible loan stock—with a guarantee for repayment on the due date, for which Corinthian has agreed to forego its conversion rights. It will also develop Trianco with Redfye, one of its subsidiaries. C & S adds the proposed merger will ensure rapid expansion, safeguard jobs and produce considerable savings.

## S &amp; U growth areas

Showing pre-tax profit up from £60,000 to £71,000 for the half to July 31, S & U Stores, following the sale to British Mail Order Corporation of the net balances of the mail order agency, looks to credit trading and manufacturing for its future growth. Profits do not include the losses of the mail order division (some £68,000 for the corresponding period of 1974). The interim payment is 0.88p against 0.9 gross.

## Int Paint prospering

In spite of the deepening recession, International Paint, a subsidiary of Courtaulds, has done better than it expected. And it is well on the way to a record result for 1975-76. Pre-tax profits spurred from £5.7m to £7m on turnover of £79m, against £62.9m. Over the whole of last year they expanded from

£7m to £10.2m and the board expects this record to be surpassed.

## Hopes dashed at Brockhouse

A savage second-half setback has upset J. Brockhouse's apparent. After charging £514,000 (£242,000) loss-making units in South Africa, France and the United Kingdom, this West Bromwich engineering group, reports pre-tax profits down from £3.01m to £1.67m for the year ended September 30. Yet turnover rose from £48m to a record £57m.

The figures must come as a blow to the board (the shares weakened yesterday), who earlier this year prophesied that the group would "finish in sight" of last year's record figure—if conditions did not worsen. At half-time its exports were 48 per cent up, there was a big increase in orders, and pre-tax profits surged 29 per cent at £1.3m. This year's second half, however, saw a drop to £372,000 in the pre-tax from the surprisingly good £2m a year earlier. In spite of the setback, the final dividend is raised from 9.91p to 10.45p, making the year's total 18.14p (16.49p) out of earnings a share down from 28.39p to 26.87p.

## Dawson Int slips back farther

In face of a 35 per cent relapse in pre-tax profits to £630,000 for the half year to September 30, Dawson International, the Scottish knitwear group, repeats its interim at 1.56p gross.

Last full year the pre-tax collapsed from a peak of £6.2m to £500,000. A slump in demand, severe de-stocking and the reversal of a major diversification programme were among the trouble spots, and obviously these continue to affect the performance. The net attributable shrank from £542,000 to £320,000.

Mr Alan Smith, chairman, says that unlike the United Kingdom, a number of export markets are now recovering. This is significant, as the group exports more than half its turnover. Even sales during the period shed 7 per cent at £20.4m. But liquidity is improving.

## MARCHWIEL HOLDINGS LIMITED

## Interim Statement

The Directors of Marchwiel Holdings Limited announce the declaration of an interim dividend of 0.820625p per share on the issued Ordinary share capital in respect of the financial year ended 31st October 1975 (1974 - 0.778875p). This interim dividend will be payable on 5th January 1976 to Ordinary Shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 5th December 1975.

It is the current intention of the Board to pay a final dividend on 2nd April 1976 of 1.95p per share which will, together with the interim payment now declared, represent a dividend for the full year of 2.770625p (1974 - 2.59625p) per share. Including the imputed tax credit, this is equivalent to a gross payment of 4.2625p per share (1974 - 3.875p).

The unaudited results for the six months to 30th April 1975 are given below. As intimated in last year's annual report, turnover is significantly ahead of last year but the increase in profit has been affected by bad weather in the early part of the year and losses on two large civil engineering contracts. Although these losses will continue in the second half, the better weather conditions we have enjoyed this summer should adequately compensate.

As far as the order book is concerned, the civil engineering sector is reasonably satisfactory, but there is a shortage of orders for general and industrialised building. Considerable progress has been made with negotiations in the Middle East, and it is hoped that work will have started in two Arab countries by the time this year's annual report is presented.

	Six months to 30.4.75 Unaudited	Six months to 30.4.74 Unaudited	Year ended 31.10.74 Audited
Group Turnover	£'000 56,830	£'000 40,998	£'000 84,999
Net Profits before Tax	2,358	1,809	5,231
Net Profits after Tax	1,132	868	2,716

Controlling  
Sir Alfred McAlpine & Son Limited

## AYER HITAM TIN DREDGING LIMITED

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. J. G. Richardson, for the year ended 30 June 1975.

Although it was expected that the year's production would be similar to that for the 12 months ended 30 June 1974, output amounted to 3,127 tonnes, an increase of 49 tonnes. Profit before taxation totalled £3,884,000 compared with £2,502,000 for the previous year. The net profit, after allowing for taxation of £2,218,000 and extraordinary items, was a record £1,498,000 compared with £1,039,000 for the previous year.

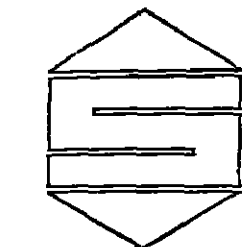
Two dividends were paid to shareholders totalling 13.0 pence (1973/74: 9.7987 pence) per share, equivalent to 20.0 pence (1973/74: 14.6249 pence) per share after allowing for imputed tax credit.

The No. 2 dredge was withdrawn from service for major treatment plant modifications and general repairs on 17 June, 1975. Operations were resumed on 8 September 1975. While the dredge was inoperative, the level of the padlock was lowered by almost 20 feet leaving no reserves at depths hitherto inaccessible, within reach. This dredge is now operating in a padlock some 65 feet below ground level to recover ore at depths in excess of 220 feet. Such an operation is unique in mineral dredging and has only been made possible by the implementation of special techniques developed with the advice and assistance of the company's soils mechanics consultants.

The Economic Plan introduced by the Malaysian government in 1974 calls for increased local participation in industry in the country. Your directors appreciate and accept the aims of the Federal Government and, while continuing to safeguard the interests of shareholders, have taken initial steps towards complying with the Government's wishes and have submitted outline proposals and held discussions with the relevant authorities in Malaysia.

The total output of the company during the quarter ended 30 September, 1975 was generally satisfactory although greatly affected by the shut down of the No. 2 dredge. 447 tonnes were produced compared with 648 tonnes for the equivalent period in 1974. With continued dry stripping ahead of all three dredges and allowing for improvements through-out the year, the modifications to the No. 2 dredge operations for the current year are expected to continue for at least a further eight years assuming reasonable tin prices.

Copies of the Report and Accounts and Chairman's Statement can be obtained from the Registrars, P.O. Box 102, The House, Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8ED.



## Selection Trust Limited

## INTERIM REVIEW

For the year ending

31st March, 1976

## Half Year's Financial Results

## and Declaration of Interim Dividend

At a Board Meeting held today the Directors of Selection Trust Limited declared an interim dividend of 5p per share in respect of the year ending 31 March, 1976 the same as for the previous year.

The dividend will be paid on 19 January, 1976 to shareholders registered at 12 December, 1975. United Kingdom shareholders will be entitled to a tax credit representing thirty-five sixths of the dividend, i.e., approximately 2.69p per share, making the total of the interim payment and tax credit approximately 7.69p per share.

A summary of the unaudited consolidated results for the half year ended 30 September, 1975, together with comparative figures for the half year to 30 September, 1974, and the results for the year to 31 March, 1975, is shown below. The figures for the half year to 30 September, 1975, include lower operating profits and dividend income together with increases in expenditure on administration, exploration and interest on borrowings. The reductions in operating profit and dividend income reflect

principally the adverse trading conditions for metals and minerals which have affected the Company's operating subsidiaries, including those in the United Kingdom, as well as some of its major investments; in particular, no dividend has yet been received from Tsumeb Corporation during the current accounting period. In addition, although the figures include for the first time the results of Consolidated African Selection Trust (CAST), during the period covered by this report no dividends were receivable by CAST on the shareholdings in the diamond companies in Ghana and Sierra Leone from which its main income is derived. The increases in charges against revenue are attributable in part to the inevitable effects of inflation, in part to the consolidation of the accounts of CAST and the impact of a complete half-year's interest on the bank borrowings of the enlarged Group. It is emphasised that the trend of profits in this half year, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, does not give any reliable guide to the likely results for the whole year.

	HALF YEAR ENDED 30th SEPTEMBER 1975	1974	YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 1975
Operating profit	£'000 3,072	£'000 4,381	£'000 6,108
Profit on realisation of investments	2,896	2,175	3,293
Dividends	1,689	3,000	5,217
Interest received and Sundry revenue	964	850	1,778
	8,621	10,406	18,396
Less: Administration and technical expenses	1,423	948	2,206
Exploration	1,007	1,480	2,209
Interest on bank loans	2,194	1,556	3,416
	5,103	3,511	7,831
Profit before taxation	3,518	6,895	10,565
Taxation	1,584	2,930	4,490
Profit after taxation	1,934	3,965	6,075
Less: Minority interest	(148)	425	995
Profit attributable to Selection Trust Ltd.	2,082	3,540	5,080
Interim dividend costs:			Total Dividend
—on 23,172,678 shares	1,159		3,105
—on 20,401,047 shares		1,020	

20th November, 1975

## BEECHAM GROUP LIMITED

## Interim Statement of Trading Results 1975/76

The directors of Beecham Group Limited announce that the unaudited trading results for the half year ended 30 September 1975 are as follows:

	Half year ended 30 September 1975	1974	Year ended 31 March 1975
Group sales	£m 251.9	£m 201.5	£m 436.4
Group trading profit	38.8	31.0	68.5
Interest on loan capital and bridging loans	3.2	3.2	6.6
Group profit before taxation	35.6	27.8	61.9
Taxation	16.1	12.8	28.7
Group profit after taxation	19.5	15.0	33.2
Minority interests	0.3	0.3	0.4
Group profit available for dividends and retentions	19.2	14.7	32.8
Earnings per ordinary share	13.37p	10.22p	22.84p

## Interim dividend

The directors have today declared an interim dividend of 2.61p per ordinary share which, together with its imputed tax credit, amounts to 4.0154p per share, compared with a gross equivalent interim dividend of 3.6567p for 1974/75. The 1975/76 interim dividend, totalling £3.7m will be paid on 2 February 1976 to all members on the register at the close of business on 22 December 1975, except in respect of ordinary shares allotted to holders of Beecham International Holdings S.A. 5% guaranteed convertible debentures tendered for conversion after 19 November 1975.

## Currency exchange rates

Trading results of overseas subsidiaries for the half year ended 30 September 1975 have been expressed in sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at 31 March 1975.

20 November 1975

## McKechnie Brothers Limited

**RESULTS** In a year of recession in demand for many of our products, the final profit outcome is not unreasonable. Cash flow was much more satisfactory and total borrowings were reduced very substantially from £16.5m to £6.6m. Our favourable cash position provided some cushion against the current rampant inflation.

**UNITED KINGDOM** Companies in the Group were hit in varying degrees and at different times by the downturn in business. The fall in demand for semis was severe, on the other hand export sales of copper sulphate held up well for most of the year.

**OVERSEAS** The recession in South Africa has been patchy, some subsidiaries heavily dependent on the building industry suffering dramatic falls in demand; others had an exceptionally good year. In New Zealand there was a sharp fall in sales and exchange losses were incurred on overseas borrowings. In Australia, profits were reduced.

**PROSPECTS** We see no signs of an early upturn in worldwide business activity and there are so many unknowns that it is not possible to forecast the outcome of the current year; nevertheless, our internal budgets envisage a profit rather higher than 1974-5.

From the annual review of the Chairman, K. M. Leach

COMPARATIVE RESULTS	Year ended 31st July 1975	1974
	£'000	£'000
Profit before tax and metal account	8,955	15,501
Profit after tax	5,012	8,526
Earnings attributable to members	2,548	5,036
Ordinary dividend per share	1,158	1,086
Capital employed	3,566	3,326
	53,273	49,942

## McKECHNIE ACTIVITIES COMPRISE

In the United Kingdom;

rods, sections and ingots in copper and brass; chemicals based on copper; copper and aluminium powder and paste; builders' and domestic hardware (curtain track, hinges, smallware and furniture fittings); moulded and extruded plastic products; extrusions and die castings in aluminium; vacuum formed refractory fibre products; cable glands and components for the electrical industry; stockholding and metal merchandising.

In South Africa;

rods, sections and ingots in copper and brass; sheet, strip and foil in copper and brass; tubes in copper and brass; wire in copper, brass and aluminium; sheet, strip, wire and ingots in zinc; stockholding and metal merchandising.

In New Zealand;

rods, sections and ingots in copper and brass; tubes in copper and brass; continuous cast-bronze bars; extrusions and ingots in aluminium.

In Australia;

plastic extrusions and mouldings.

P.O. BOX 8, ALDRIDGE, WALSLEY WS9 8DS







## Mining

1973	T.S.	Company
55	26	Armitage & Rhoades
93	94	Deborah Services
134	90	Henry Sykes
61	18	Twinlock Ord
66	45	Twinlock 12% ULS
63	12	Unitel Holdings

Barl 2 <sup>d</sup> 1987	71	72
Barnes, K. 4 <sup>th</sup> 1987	113	113
Barnes, L. 4 <sup>th</sup> 1987	80	80
Bedford's Dept Stores 4 <sup>th</sup> 1985	120	120
Bell 1987	77	77
Bell 6 1986	77	77
Bell 4 <sup>th</sup> 1987	77	77
Bell 5 1987	75	75
Bell Electric 4 <sup>th</sup> 1987	82	83
Bell and Western 3 1988	78	78
Bell 3 1987	77	77
Bellwell 4 1986	77	78
Bell 1987	87	87
Bell McDermott 4 <sup>th</sup> 1987	100	100
Bell Morgan 1 <sup>st</sup> 1987	92	92
Bell 1985	92	92
Bell 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1987	77	77
Bell 1987	78	78
Bell 1987	78	78

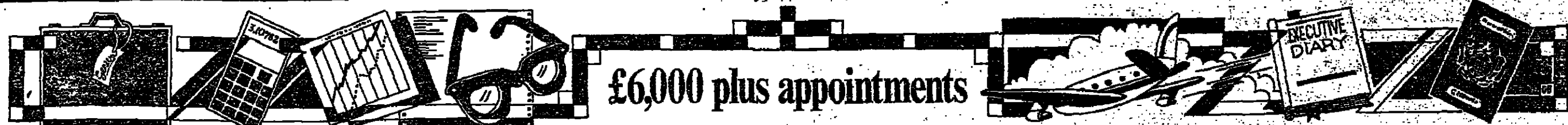
end-September, R5.07m (R3.67m).

### Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

[illegible][illegible]

1974/75		1975/76		1976/77		1977/78		1978/79		1979/80		1980/81		1981/82		1982/83		1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		1989/90		1990/91		1991/92		1992/93		1993/94		1994/95		1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/00		2000/01		2001/02		2002/03		2003/04		2004/05		2005/06		2006/07		2007/08		2008/09		2009/10		2010/11		2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16		2016/17		2017/18		2018/19		2019/20		2020/21		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25		2025/26		2026/27		2027/28		2028/29		2029/30		2030/31		2031/32		2032/33		2033/34		2034/35		2035/36		2036/37		2037/38		2038/39		2039/40		2040/41		2041/42		2042/43		2043/44		2044/45		2045/46		2046/47		2047/48		2048/49		2049/50		2050/51		2051/52		2052/53		2053/54		2054/55		2055/56		2056/57		2057/58		2058/59		2059/60		2060/61		2061/62		2062/63		2063/64		2064/65		2065/66		2066/67		2067/68		2068/69		2069/70		2070/71		2071/72		2072/73		2073/74		2074/75		2075/76		2076/77		2077/78		2078/79		2079/80		2080/81		2081/82		2082/83		2083/84		2084/85		2085/86		2086/87		2087/88		2088/89		2089/90		2090/91		2091/92		2092/93		2093/94		2094/95		2095/96		2096/97		2097/98		2098/99		2099/00		2100/01		2101/02		2102/03		2103/04		2104/05		2105/06		2106/07		2107/08		2108/09		210
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## HAMPSHIRE

### County Planning Officer

(Re-advertisement of post)  
Salary £13,428-£14,310

The County Council are seeking an officer for this post who will be able to demonstrate that he has the ability and experience not only to plan imaginatively for the future but to translate plans into reality by taking a leading role in their implementation. This applies particularly to those plans which relate to the development of areas in Hampshire which are of major strategic importance.

The County Planning Officer will be expected to manage a Department of specialists, researchers and administrators and to channel their activities so to enhance and conserve the importance, beauty and characteristics of the second largest non-metropolitan County in the country.

The successful applicant must hold an appropriate professional qualification or degree. Membership of the R.T.P.I. will be an advantage but is not essential. The candidate must be able to demonstrate managerial ability in a large organisation and an ability to lead colleagues in joint projects.

The person appointed will be expected to make a major contribution to the Council's corporate management approach through membership of the Chief Officers' Group.

Personal Allowance £405 per annum. Essential User Car Allowance. Assistance towards resettlement expenses.

Please quote reference 1208 when applying for full details and application form (returnable by 12th December) from the County Personnel Officer, The Castle, Winchester, Hampshire.

## PAKISTAN URDU

energetic young man is required, about 3 years old, who speaks exceptionally fluent Urdu in an office in Pakistan.

The position will appeal to the independent type who likes working on his own initiative and will enjoy the considerable amount of local travel and driving it that the job entails.

Previous general commercial experience is necessary, and somebody who has already worked in Pakistan would be most suited.

We are offering a long-term appointment and a stimulating career. Attractive conditions are offered commensurate with the high standards demanded. Highest references will be called for.

Write in confidence with curriculum vitae to

Box No. 1683 S, The Times

## Exploding the Civil Service myth

The British Civil Service has long had to endure a not altogether fair reputation for almost limitless bureaucracy and staggering inefficiency.

So widespread is this view in fact that businessmen and industrialists often appear totally bemused when they hear of the Civil Service Department actually doing something well and with the minimum of fuss.

The fact remains, however, no matter how unpalatable to its detractors—that the CS is comparatively very well run for an organisation of its complexity, its managers are often of high calibre and its communications smooth and comprehensive.

Like the nationalised industries it can invariably and justifiably claim that the many deficiencies which do exist are largely as a result of confusing interference from above.

And many a businessman in recent years has suffered the embarrassment of hearing a potential overseas

partner of the British Civil Service as one of the best in the world while damning our industries as among the worst.

The CS has also in recent times provided a rich source of information for private sector employers. Unlike most organisations in the private sector, of course, it is quite willing to share its experiences particularly in innovative administrative techniques with any interested party.

For example, as a front-runner in the operation of flexible working hours in Britain it generously charted its findings to provide almost at a glance most of the information required by any private company considering a similar scheme.

Meanwhile its helpful booklet, *Management Services in Government*, regularly provides a welter of readily acceptable information on important aspects of administration like management techniques, energy-saving and job-satisfaction studies together with honest accounts of their success or failure when operated within the service.

Now an equally welcoming response is expected from industry to the Department's latest innovation—a concise booklet designed to provide new managers with the simplest of guides to all the best virtues of efficient and effective management.

Guide for New Managers was commissioned as a direct result of one of the main findings in a recent Govern-

ment review of the service. This identified the quality of line management and the style and effectiveness of managers particularly at the junior level as one of the factors underlying discontent in the CS generally.

The guide was thus prepared by the CSD in collaboration with other government departments with an eye to local office work performed by staff in the Administration Group. But its importance as a day-to-day manual for young administrators in any sphere was quickly realized and it is now being made available to all-comers.

The guide follows the widely accepted definition of the task of management. This is that managers at all levels have to perform four crucial and inter-related functions—planning, organising, motivating and controlling—and that they must do so through the proper use of the staff and other resources allocated them.

Each chapter in the 30-page booklet is devoted to one of the four elements in this definition and starts with a short statement of what is meant by it. Then for each element straightforward hints are catalogued to aid the new manager to understand what his own managers

and new subordinates require of him.

Its style is not dictatorial but rather designed to nudge the new chief into a more conscious realization of some of the deeper aspects of his job which otherwise might be overlooked.

For example the "planning" section provides simple hints with a view to creating a fuller awareness of the control of staff levels and workloads while the "motivating" section lists methods of handling widely different individuals while at the same time presenting a clearly defined "leader" identity to the whole team.

The guide has already received an extremely favourable review from Lord (Wilfred) Brown, a former Minister of State at the Board of Trade, who previously notched up 34 years in industry.

He urges all employers to give a copy to every young man or woman prior to their first managerial appointment and comments: "If I had had it at that early stage of my career it might have saved me from a number of acts, and particularly failures to act."

Guide for new Managers: The Civil Service Dept; 55p including postage.

Richard Allen

## KEEPER-Greek & Roman Antiquities

The collections of the Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities consist of objects of all kinds from the classical world, apart from Romano-British material.

The Keeper will be responsible for the general administration of the Department, the care, improvement and cataloguing of its collections, the maintenance of its public services, including exhibitions and publications, and the direction of scholarly work by its staff. In particular there is scope for a dynamic approach to publication and to the public displays in the exhibition galleries.

Candidates, preferably aged between 35 and 55, must be of high academic standing within the field covered by the Department. Administrative ability is essential, and practical museum experience advantageous.

Starting salary will be £9600. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12 December 1975) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1LB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-839 1992 (24 hour answering service). Please quote ref G/9189/1

British Museum



## Notting Hill Housing Trust DEPUTY DIRECTOR

A charitable housing association formed in 1963, the Trust is now registered with the Housing Corporation, and currently manages over 2,100 tenancies in stress areas of 4 West London Boroughs. Its development programme for the next 2 years projects a purchase rate rising from 20 (currently) to 50 houses per annum to produce an annual conversion programme of 600 homes. This includes involvement in two Housing Action Areas. Additionally, plans are well advanced on 8 re-development sites to produce 190 dwellings, including 72 units of sheltered accommodation.

Applicants should have relevant experience and professional qualifications and must have proven managerial ability. Salary negotiable, non-contributory pension and life assurance scheme (or local government rights transferable).

Application forms and further details from The Director, All Saints House, 46 All Saints Road, London W11 1HG (Telephone 01-229 9782 ext. 212) Closing date Wednesday, 3rd December, 1975.

## GMC

Greater Manchester Council

- (A) Principal Prosecuting Solicitor  
£7,887-£8,763  
(B) Prosecuting Solicitor  
£4,992-£6,564

Applications are invited from Solicitors INCLUDING THOSE IN PRIVATE PRACTICE to undertake prosecution work for the Greater Manchester Police. Mr. D. J. Gandy is the Chief Prosecuting Solicitor, and the post of Principal Prosecuting Solicitor is next in seniority. Applicants must be of good character, and must be recommended by a number of years standing. Applications for post (B) may have a limited experience but should however have and be able to demonstrate an aptitude for advocacy. Further information can be obtained by telephoning (061) 228 1212 ext. 307. Applications by letter giving all relevant details to the County Personnel Officer, County Hall, Piccadilly Gardens, Manchester M60 9UP, as soon as possible and not later than 2nd December. Please quote reference 178.

## IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

### Research Assistants

... for the following Departments:

**Film**  
The collection includes the official British records of both world wars and material on other 20th century conflicts. Work involves general curatorial duties and research on the collection, liaison with staff reviewing the cataloguing of the film archive, some responsibility for the selection of acquisitions and administering the distribution scheme.

Candidates must have a degree and sound knowledge of 20th Century history with an interest in film. Knowledge of one or more modern foreign European languages advantageous.

**Photographs**  
The national collection of some 41 million 20th century military photographs is extensively used by publishers, press, TV and film companies, scholars, students and the general public. Work involves preparing indexes and catalogues, writing captions, answering enquiries, and assisting visitors in the reading room.

Candidates must have a degree in history or other relevant subject. Good knowledge of 20th century history and interest in visual material advantageous. Starting salary between £2,500 and £3,000 according to qualifications and experience. Promotion prospects. Non-contributory pension scheme.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 15 December 1975) write to Civil Service Commission, Alconon Link, Basingstoke, Hants, RG21 1LB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 68551 (answering service operates outside office hours) or London 01-839 1992 (24 hour answering service). Please quote ref G/44882

**University of Birmingham**  
DEPARTMENT OF ANCIENT HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY  
Applications are invited for a  
LECTURESHIP IN ANCIENT HISTORY

From 1 October 1976, Candidates should send a Special Interview in Roman History. Applications should be sent to the Department of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT. Closing date 31 December 1975. Salary £3,000-£3,500 p.a. plus pension. Details on 10

## CRUDE OIL TRADER

Leading international group seeks crude oil trader for its expanding worldwide activities to be based in its London office.

Experience of crude oil business essential and specific experience of trading desirable. Knowledge of products also helpful.

Vital qualities are intelligence, flexibility and willingness to work hard in highly active and dynamic environment.

Prospects exceptional. Terms by negotiation.

Apply in strict confidence to  
Box No 1514 S, The Times,  
or telephone Mr A. G. Felsenstein, 930 3543.

## LITIGATION SOLICITOR WILLIAM HEATH & Co.

Expanding firm on the edge of the West End seeks a Solicitor with several years' experience in general practice to take charge of its Litigation Department. An ability to supervise, manage growth and willingness to make office administration work are among the qualities sought. Initial benefits will be in the region of £7,500 p.a. After a short period a Partnership will be offered to a suitable applicant.

Please telephone MR. HEATH on 01-486 6701 for an appointment.

## PROJECT MANAGER

PROJECT MANAGER required by London based established professional firm wishing to expand their recently established project management department. Successful applicant will be directly responsible to a principal and capable of initiating and controlling all aspects of project management. In short technical knowledge and ability to manage people are essential. Position is challenging and offers considerable scope for an ambitious man of the right calibre. Terms of appointment by negotiation.

Applicants should address their reply to a principal giving full career details. All replies will be treated in strict confidence.

Write Box 1651 S, The Times

## Corporate Finance Executives MERCHANT BANKING

Brands, the Merchant Bankers, are intending to increase the staff of their Corporate Finance Department and are able to offer some excellent opportunities for Executives to join the Bank's existing team.

The successful applicants will be qualified Chartered Accountants or numerate graduates from another professional background in their 20's and will deal with all aspects of Mergers, Acquisitions and New Issues. Experience in this field is useful, but not essential.

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Applications are invited for this post. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision and guidance of students in the Department of Extra-mural Studies. The post involves a significant amount of teaching and supervision. Salary range £3,000-£3,500 p.a. plus pension. Details on 10

Applications giving personal and career details should be sent to: Desmond Hayes, Employment Manager, Times Newspapers Limited, P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

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## NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION

With the current new style in Management of the Nigerian Railway Corporation, the need has arisen to attract the quality of staff into the service generally, while at the same time develop the service in the future. The Nigerian Railway Corporation is now inviting applications from graduates for appointments into staff positions to work in Nigeria.

1. QUALIFICATION: Degree holders in Arts, Law, Economics, Social Sciences, Business Administration and related studies.

2. AGE: Not above 35 years old.

3. CONDITIONS OF SERVICE: As in public service. Applicants should be prepared to work in the field of the Corporation. The post is a full-time position. On successful completion of this post, they will be appointed to the post of Assistant Secretary to the Nigerian Railway Corporation. The post is a full-time position. On successful completion of this post, they will be appointed to the post of Assistant Secretary to the Nigerian Railway Corporation.

4. METHOD OF APPLICATION: Candidates should send their applications to the Nigerian Railway Corporation, P.O. Box 100, Lagos, Nigeria.

5. CLOSING DATE: 10th December, 1975. Applications from candidates in the Civil Service and Public Corporations should be forwarded through their present employer.

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An excellent career in a growing company is available to a young married couple who are seeking a change of making a success of a new venture. The company is a leading firm in the Middle East. The couple are seeking a change of making a success of a new venture. The company is a leading firm in the Middle East.

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Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in the Department of Social Work. The post involves a significant amount of teaching and supervision. Salary range £3,000-£3,500 p.a. plus pension. Details on 10

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**DEATHS**  
COOPER—On November 20th, 1975, Henry Guy Cooper, 82, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
DANBY—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
DAVIDSON—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
GRAY—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
HARTLEY—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
JONES—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
MACLACHLAN—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
MILSON—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
O'DONOGHUE—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
PLATT—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
POWELL—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
REYNOLDS—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
SMITH—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
TAYLOR—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
WATSON—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
WILLIAMS—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
WILSON—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

**DEATHS**  
YOUNG—On November 20th, 1975, at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died at home. Burial at Golders Green Crematorium, London, on November 21st, 1975, at 11 a.m.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 25

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**CANCER RESEARCH**  
The Imperial Cancer Research Fund is a charity which aims to help people who are suffering from cancer. It does this by carrying out research into the causes of cancer and by providing help and support to people who are affected by the disease.

**YACHTS AND BOATS**  
**TWIN-SCREW DIESEL YACHT**  
A twin-screw diesel yacht, 35 ft long, 10 ft wide, 4 ft deep. It has a cabin, a cockpit, and a mast. It is in excellent condition and is available for sale at a very low price.

**SPORT AND RECREATION**  
**SKIERS BEAUTIFUL SALOPETTE**  
A pair of beautiful salopettes, made of a soft, warm material. They are in excellent condition and are available for sale at a very low price.

**SENDING CHARITY CARDS**  
We are looking for people who would like to send Christmas cards to people who are in need. We will provide you with a list of people who need your help and we will send you the cards for free.

**CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**TONIGHT THE GASLIGHT**  
A performance of 'The Gaslight' at the Gaslight Theatre. The play is a comedy and is written by C. D. Box. It is a very popular play and is being performed at the Gaslight Theatre.

**UK HOLIDAYS**  
**ALBANY HOTEL**  
A hotel in London, with 100 rooms. It is a very comfortable hotel and is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**SKI CHALETS PARTIES**  
A party of 10 people, with a ski chalet. The party is available for sale at a very low price.

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**WALTONS**  
A shop in London, with a large selection of goods. It is a very popular shop and is available for sale at a very low price.

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**WALTONS**  
A shop in London, with a large selection of goods. It is a very popular shop and is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**THOMSON GIVE YOU**  
A holiday in Thomson's. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**ES OFF ORPHEUS**  
A holiday in Orpheus. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**BEST VALUE IN FARES**  
A holiday in the best value in fares. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**UNITED AIR TRAVELS**  
A holiday in United Air Travels. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**FLY IT COSTS LESS**  
A holiday in Fly It Costs Less. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**SKI SKI SKI**  
A holiday in Ski Ski Ski. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**THE BEAUTY OF THE CARIBBEAN**  
A holiday in The Beauty of the Caribbean. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**SAVE VALUABLE AIR FARES**  
A holiday in Save Valuable Air Fares. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

**HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS**  
**WINTER IN GREECE**  
A holiday in Winter in Greece. The holiday is available for sale at a very low price.

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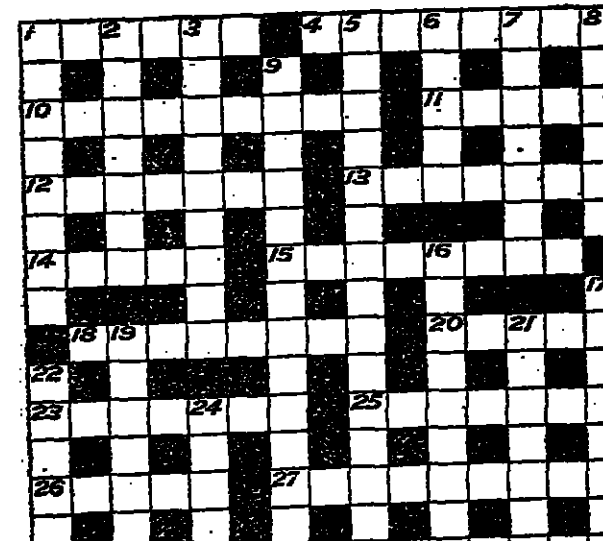
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The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,156



**ACROSS**  
1 Stake about everything on the dance (6).  
4 Their clients are not close-fisted (8).  
10 Fish gone mutilated into the fisherman's basket (6, 3).  
11 Alpine region in which to have a pretty rolling time (6, 2).  
12 Makes a secret concoction (7).  
13 Doubled reverse speed, so people tell (7).  
14 A way they have in church (5).  
15 Removed from view when given security vetting (8).  
18 Does making a row during service (8).  
20 Flight of a more lover (3).  
21 A little sort of (3).  
25 His father advised him not to be one of 2 (7).  
26 He cannot help feeling put out (5).  
27 Not likely to be found among light cavalry (4, 5).  
28 Sound as a bell (4, 4).  
29 Indulges in shary practice in return games (6).

**DOWN**  
1 Defender's impotence to the referee (8).  
2 Of those making the advance there are fifty who finish (7).  
3 People are put out by it (9).  
5 They provide a thoroughly gripping spectacle (3, 2, 9).  
6 Is she a winner at chess? (5).  
7 Upper crust, Sheridan's (7).  
8 This side of beef—from the Argentine? (16).  
9 They carry on working (6, 2, 1).  
10 The caterer turns into a jump in 10 (9).  
11 State of being "just so" (7).  
12 A tale nights (7).  
13 When an oration would be quite out of order (7).  
14 Long-handled effusion of 15 losing some points (6).  
16 In tremendous form? Correct! (5).  
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